Cambridge University
Botanic Garden

Annual Report & Accounts 2024–2025

Aconitum carmichaelii ‘Barker’s Variety’
Cover photo: School children on a visit to the Garden

Annual Report & Accounts 2024–2025

Director's Report

Professor Beverley Glover
Director

It has been another exciting year at the Botanic Garden, with significant progress in several key areas of activity. We have been particularly proud this year of our Community Programme and the work we have been doing supporting the Cambridge community to develop a sense of belonging to both the Garden and the wider University. Horticulturally, we have been forced by the changing climate to put more time and effort into tree management. This year we have moved our Annual Report window to coincide with the financial year (August 2024-July 2025), rather than the academic year, for greater clarity.

The academic year has been a busy one, with exciting activity on many fronts. We appointed Matthew Jeffery to the new role of Expedition Botanist, funded by the uplift in our Research England Higher Education Museums and Galleries (HEMG) funding. Matthew's role is to plan and lead collecting expeditions, and his first trip to Croatia has already generated significant excitement with some really inspiring new accessions for our living collection. Horticulturally, we have had a very hot and dry summer, which at the time of writing may prove to be the hottest recorded in the UK. We have continued the preparatory work for the redevelopment of our irrigation system, and hope to be able to make more substantial progress next year. In the meantime staff have focused on maintaining the collection as best we can, with particular attention on veteran trees and ensuring their safety for visitors. Our Community Programme has been an enormous success this year, with a particular highlight being a Participatory Research project, encouraging community group members to co-design the Botanic Garden of the future with us. This work has been particularly timely as we have also been making good progress on the development of our first ever whole Garden masterplan. We expect to have a finalised plan by the autumn, which will then inform development and planning of the site for the next decade. Expect to hear more about this next year, as we work out which exciting interventions to tackle first!

Our Community Programme is discussed in the Learning Team's report on page 24. Its aim is to bridge the gap between the City of Cambridge, often described as the most unequal city in the UK, and the University. The Botanic Garden is a soft entrance to the University, less intimidating than some of the grand buildings on other sites, and our aim is to encourage the wider Cambridge community to develop a sense that they belong to the Garden and that the Garden belongs to them. In exploring and expanding their relationship with the Garden, we hope that they also start to develop a sense of connection to the wider University and its research and learning goals. The Community programme is supplemented by specific free pass schemes that we operate in partnership with the City foodbanks and with the City Council's refugee programmes. All of this work was celebrated in June 2025 with our annual Midsummer garden party attended by the Mayor of Cambridge, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the city's MP and the Recorder of Cambridge. We were lucky with a beautiful summer evening, and it was wonderful to be able to share the success of the programme with the community's leaders.

The hot and dry weather that we have experienced this year has made management of the Garden's living collection particularly challenging. One particular worry is the number of large and mature trees on site, which can behave unpredictably when the weather is dry. A phenomenon known as summer branch drop, where trees can drop mature limbs to reduce their load in dry conditions, is of particular concern, and is almost impossible to predict. We have had to rope off several large trees this summer to ensure that our visitors are safe. However, sometimes trees can fall even without the warning triggers of drought or high wind. In the autumn we were particular saddened by the failure of our beautiful old Stone Pine (Italian stone pine) in the Alpine Yard, hitting the roof of the glasshouse toilet block as it fell on the evening of Monday 28th October 2024. The tree had a forked trunk, and the fork failed, with one of the two major trunks falling. When something like this happens there is a lot of work to do – tidying up and making the area safe, removing the remainder of the tree which was now unstable, working out how to repair the toilet block and sourcing temporary toilets for the period of repair work. Each of our trees is assessed by an external contractor every 3 years, providing detailed recommendations and follow up surveying and advice. This is an enormous job, but one we take very seriously to maintain safety on the site. At its last full assessment it was recommended that ivy be removed from the base of the stone pine and that it then be surveyed again using PICUS testing – a form of ultrasound to assess the decay present in tree trunks. We removed the ivy and the PICUS testing was done in June 2024 – finding the tree to be very solid. It is disappointing that all of our work failed to pre-empt the problem, but also encouraging to know that we had followed all the best guidance in our care of the tree. We will continue to do this, and also work to enhance our irrigation capacity. In the end though, it is inevitable that our living collection will also change as we bring in new species better suited to the changing climate of Cambridge. I am glad that we have the funding and expert staff in place to continue to enhance the collection and steward the Garden through the next decades, whatever they might bring.

Director's Report

'Our Community Programme has been an enormous success this year, with a particular highlight being a Participatory Research project, encouraging community group members to co-design the Botanic Garden of the future with us'

The Year in Pictures

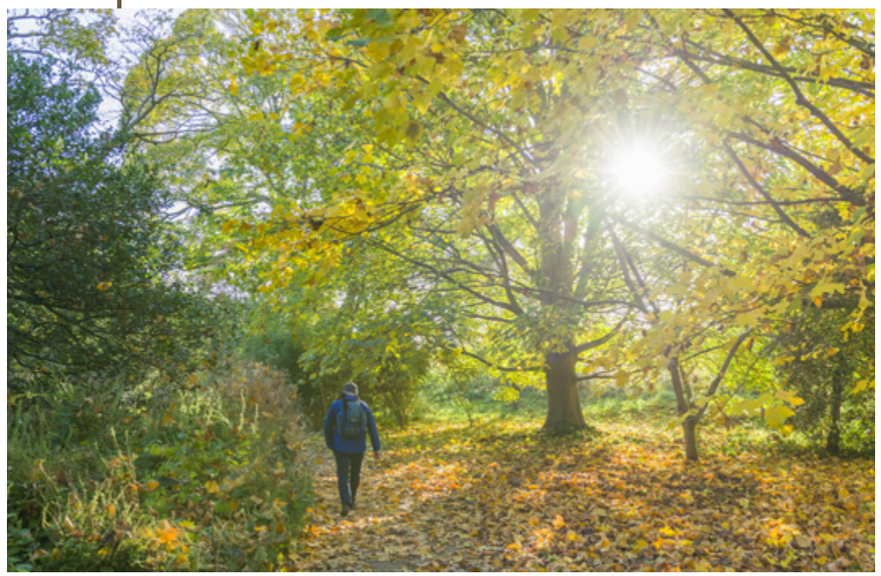
August

Summer holiday exploration

September

Fungi Field Day

October



Autumn colour

November

Filming for BBC One's Antiques Road Trip in the Herbarium

December

Cambridge Botanic Lights

January

Galanthus 'Richard Ayres'

February

Twilight at the Museums event in the Glasshouses

March

The Yoshino cherry tree *Prunus* x *yedoensis* in bloom

April

Wildflower walks and trails

May

Planting out the *Victoria cruziana*

The Year in Pictures

June

Station Road ticket office progress

July

Sounds Green

Research

Professor Samuel Brockington
Curator and Deputy Director

This year's research focus is a new study led from Cambridge University Botanic Garden that has revealed that the world's living plant collections may have reached their limits[1]. Published earlier this year in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, the research was four years in the making and brings together an extraordinary dataset covering a century of botanic garden history. The paper was led by our Curator Samuel Brockington, Ángela Cano and Jake Powell in our Curation team, and colleagues from 50 institutions worldwide. It has already drawn international attention, with coverage in The Guardian highlighting its striking findings: that the living plant collections of the world appear to have reached "peak capacity," "peak diversity," "peak wild," and "peak global."

The analysis drew upon records from 50 living plant collections across the world, representing a combined dataset of 2.2 million individual records. Collectively these gardens and arboreta are cultivating over half a million accessions, which account for around 41% of all known *ex situ* plant species diversity. By taking a long view across 100 years of institutional record-keeping, we were able to see patterns that are invisible at the level of individual gardens but clear when viewed across the "meta-collection," the collective holdings of botanic gardens worldwide.

The results are sobering. In terms of the number of accessions and the total number of species held, the meta-collection has reached a plateau. That botanic gardens and arboreta are "full" is perhaps not surprising: these are resource – and space-limited institutions, often confined by historic boundaries and already caring for vast numbers of plants. What is more significant, however, is that the proportion of wild-collected accessions has been in decline for more than thirty years. The data show that "peak wild" was reached in 1992, after which the rate of wild-sourced plants entering collections fell sharply. Likewise, the international outlook of collections has diminished. That same year, 1992, also saw the high-water mark of "peak global," when collections were most internationally diverse. Since then they have become progressively more regionalised, with gardens cultivating a higher proportion of species native to their own countries or regions.

The coincidence of this turning point with the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993 is hard to ignore. The CBD enshrines the principle that nations have sovereignty over their genetic resources, and that the benefits derived from those resources should be shared fairly. Historically, botanic gardens were often accused of extractive or even piratical behaviour, collecting plants from around the world with little regard for the countries of origin. In that light, the CBD can be seen as a corrective, and the decline in international collecting might be interpreted as evidence of effective legislation. Yet the story is more complicated. The CBD was never designed to prevent conservation; its intention was to prevent exploitation for commercial gain. But in practice, the regulatory complexity it introduced has made it more difficult to acquire wild material for non-commercial purposes such as conservation, horticulture, or research. The study shows that since the CBD came into force there has been a 44% reduction in the rate of inclusion of wild-collected plants, and a 39% reduction in international accessions.

This matters because many gardens claim an *ex situ* conservation role, one that depends on the movement

'The World's Living Plant Collections have reached Peak Capacity, Peak Diversity, Peak Wild & Peak Global. So where do we go next?'

of plant material across borders. Given the uneven global distribution of plant diversity compared with the locations of the world's major gardens, international exchange is essential if collections are to conserve a representative sample of threatened species. If restrictions make this impossible, then the conservation potential of gardens is compromised. The authors of the study therefore suggest that the CBD may inadvertently be hindering some conservation efforts, especially where material has to cross international borders.

Yet it would be misleading to place all the responsibility on the CBD. The research also shows

Photos, this page:
Dr. Ángela Cano, Deputy Curator and first author of the study, collecting a critically endangered Magnolia species in Vietnam (2019); Ripe Magnolia seeds collected during our expedition to Vietnam in 2019

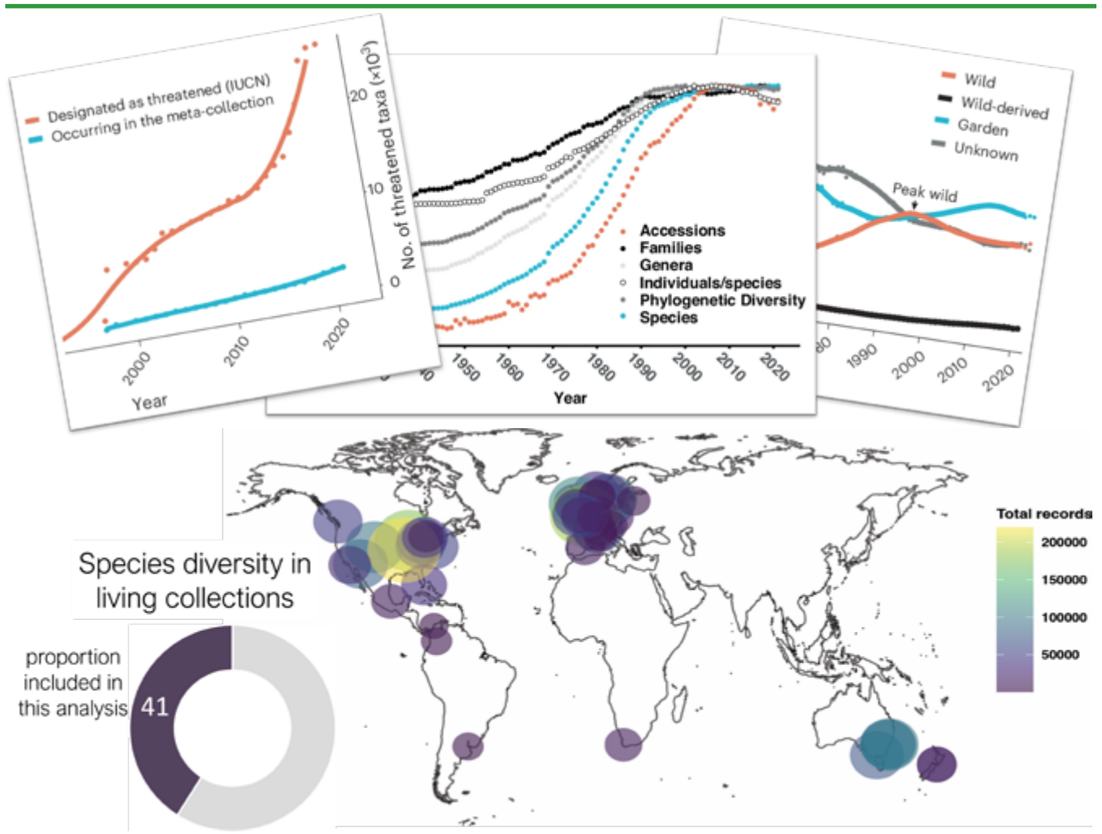
‘The results may be challenging, but they also open the doors to new conversations’

that, across the meta-collection, the measurable impact of *ex situ* conservation is surprisingly small. Over the past 40 years, the rate of inclusion of threatened species has increased by just 1%, and there is no obvious institutional response when species are formally designated as threatened. The capacity of living collections to hold threatened species and their genetic diversity also appears to be plateauing. This suggests that, beyond the challenges of international law, botanic gardens themselves have not re-engineered their systems and processes in ways that would allow them to deliver conservation at scale.

There are, however, positive examples that point to what might be possible. The International Conifer Conservation Programme, run from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, demonstrates how a coordinated consortium can achieve measurable conservation outcomes for a plant group under serious threat. Other global consortia, focusing on magnolias, cycads, oaks and ericas, show that when expertise and data are pooled, results follow. At the Missouri Botanical Garden, significant efforts have been made to re-structure collections and record-keeping specifically to support *ex situ* conservation. These examples remain the exception rather than the rule, but they show that innovation and commitment can yield results.

For Cambridge and our colleagues at Botanic Gardens Conservation International, these findings represent a pivotal moment. If botanic gardens are to live up to their stated ambitions of conserving plant diversity, then change is urgently needed. The study raises a series of pressing questions. If we truly intend to deploy our collective skills in taxonomy, horticulture and collections management to address the extinction crisis, how can we do so at a scale that matches the problem? If our collections are already at peak capacity and diversity, how can we expand that capacity or use what we have more effectively? At the level of individual institutions, what systems and processes need to be re-engineered to ensure that living collections remain dynamic, sustainable and conservation-relevant? And how should we respond if collections become less global and more regionally focused, reflecting national restrictions and priorities rather than international exchange?

Underlying all of these questions is the issue of data. The study itself was only possible because of the patient accumulation and sharing of records over decades, yet most gardens still struggle with fragmented or outdated information systems. If we are to manage the meta-collection as a global resource, then we must develop a robust data ecosystem that allows us to track, integrate and analyse collections at scale. This is where the opportunities are greatest: with new digital tools, better coordination, and stronger international partnerships, the world’s gardens could transform their role from custodians of local collections into stewards of a truly global resource.



As we reflect on these findings, it is important to recognise the contributions of the many individuals and institutions involved. Four years of work went into assembling and analysing the dataset, much of it carried out by the first and second authors, Ángela Cano and Jake Powell, here at Cambridge. We are indebted to colleagues at many gardens worldwide that shared their data. Most of all we acknowledge the countless staff, past and present, whose record-keeping made this study possible.

The results may be challenging, but they also open the door to new conversations. For friends of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, they serve as a reminder of the vital role that gardens could play in the global conservation landscape. To us this feels like a pivotal moment, but also one of opportunity: the question is how we, collectively, choose to respond.

[1]**Á Cano**, **J Powell**, AS Aiello, HL Andersen, T Arbour, A Balzer, DS Bauer,..., **SF Brockington** 2025 Insights from a century of data reveal global trends in *ex situ* living plant collections. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 9 (2), 214-224.

Photos, this spread, clockwise from left:
Front Cover of the Nature Ecology and Evolution *issue where our study was published displaying the lush tropical collections of our Glass Houses; Read our open access study published in* Nature Ecology & Evolution; *Our study showed that living collections have reached peak capacity, peak diversity and peak wild, and are not responding to the current biodiversity crisis; 50 botanic gardens from around the world participated in our study. Together we grow 41% of the diversity held in living collections*

Curation

Professor Samuel Brockington
Curator and Deputy Director

Work began in earnest with recruitment of a new Expedition Botanist, a role profiled widely in the press in October 2024 as a first for a UK botanic garden. The post was conceived to lead more equitable international expeditions, build long-term partnerships and to strengthen the pipeline of wild-origin material into the Living Collections in line with the Garden's Living Collections Strategy.

'The past year was defined by a combination of field expeditions, data analysis, major publications, and conferences'

A major external milestone arrived in January 2025 with publication and media coverage of new research led from Cambridge showing that the global "meta-collection" of living plants has reached plateaus in capacity and diversity, with long-term declines in wild and international sourcing since the early 1990s. For Curation, the message was practical: prioritise collaborative, well governed collecting and use data to target conservation value. We amplified these findings with a call for gardens to team up around shared goals, which directly supports CUBG's emphasis on formal partnerships and data-driven curation.

On the ground, the team's 2024 expedition season delivered tangible outcomes that continued to shape the collection through 2025. CUBG mounted two expeditions to Croatia with colleagues from the University of Zagreb. Post-expedition processing from the previous year was substantial: a 21-strong volunteer corps led by the Curation team cleaned and prepared approximately 522,000 individual seeds and many kilograms of herbarium material. But it is worth it, because on processing last year's material we discovered that we had made 391 accessions spanning 338 species, 196 genera and 62 families.

Data infrastructure and analytics remained a defining thread. In Singapore, at the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, the Curation team launched BGsmartR, a software package, to the international community as a toolset for managers of living collections. The team ran a hands-on workshop and live demonstrations using data from CUBG and Missouri Botanical Garden to show how collections analytics can support strategy, auditing and prioritisation. This public debut crystallised several years of internal development and positions CUBG as a leader in the sector's ambition for an emerging, interoperable data ecosystem.

Over the past year, I have been invited to present the findings of the recent Nature Ecology & Evolution paper, and the broader vision for a global data ecosystem for living collections, in a series of international forums. In Singapore, I introduced this work at the Global Botanic Gardens Congress, sparking discussions on how data integration can reshape conservation practice. I was subsequently invited to share these perspectives with the Botanic Gardens Conservation International Advisory Board meeting in Oman, where the emphasis was on building stronger regional and global infrastructures for plant data. Closer to home, I have also contributed to the Kew Mutual Appreciation Society, reflecting on the importance of collaboration and shared stewardship of plant diversity across institutions.

This year, we were delighted to launch a new external seminar series. The series hosts six invited speakers each year, creating opportunities for staff and students to hear directly from sector leaders and innovators. Early highlights have included Tom Freeth, who spoke about the landscape strategy at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Ben Thomas, Chief Executive of Thrive, who explored the transformative role of horticulture in health and wellbeing; and Peter Symes from the Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens, who shared perspectives on collective action for resilience and adaptation. These sessions not only provide inspiration but also help situate our work in Cambridge within the wider context of global practice.

In much sadder news, we lost two of our collaborators and friends this year. Donovan (Don) Kirkwood, Curator of the Stellenbosch University Botanic Garden, who fell to his death on a joint expedition with our staff. Our programme work with Stellenbosch focused on collections management, seed banking workflows and reciprocal sharing of material, and underpins our model for ethical collaboration and the fair, documented movement of germplasm. Don was an inspiration for this work, and we hope to continue our collaboration with Stellenbosch as we seek to recover from this tragic loss. We also sadly lost our partner and friend, Professor Kairykul Shalpykov, in January 2025. Kairykul was a key figure in Kyrgyz tulip research and conservation, and integral to all the expeditions conducted by the CUBG team in Kyrgyzstan. He will be greatly missed.

Finally, the team's curation activity intersected with teaching, research facilitation and public engagement. Throughout the year the Living Collections supported University researchers and external partners for studies in pollination, plant development and evolutionary biology, with Curation providing accessions, records and material. The Annual Report documents the breadth of these projects, which depend on accession-level data integrity, accurate provenance, and the ability to retrieve material at short notice, all of which depend on the quality of the Curation team. I continue to feel exceptionally proud of our impact both within and outside of the Garden.

Image:
Matthew Jeffery, CUBG Expedition Botanist, in the Jonkershoek Mountain Range

Horticulture

Sally Petitt
Head of Horticulture

Systematic Beds

The Systematic Beds are a key feature of the Botanic Garden, reflecting the 1845 design submitted by the Garden's first Curator, Andrew Murray. In his design Murray followed the principles of Augustin de Candolle, whose plant classification was based on natural and observed relationships between plants, which was the most advanced understanding of plant classification in the 1840s. Since the inception of the original Murray design, the Systematic Beds have undergone various horticultural interventions, and in 2015 the Garden embarked on a project supported by the Monument Trust, to redevelop and interpret the beds. The Rising Path, which provides an aerial view of the Systematic Beds, and the associated interpretation panels which discuss plant classification, were developed simultaneously with the redevelopment of the southern (Monochlamydeae), eastern (Calyciflorae) and western (Thalamiflorae) sections of the Systematic Beds. In the redevelopment of these sections we aimed to represent modern plant classification as understood through genetic data and molecular sequencing, while also representing Murray's layout where beds should be large and irregular; should contain only one family; and should be adjacent to beds containing closely related families.

In 2023 we began work on the monocotyledon section of the Systematic Beds. The monocotyledon section sits at the centre of the Systematic Beds inside the oval hawthorn hedge, and represents plants which germinate with one seed leaf; which have parallel-veined, lance-shaped leaves; and flowers whose parts are usually arranged in threes. Families represented here include grasses (Poaceae), yams (Dioscoreaceae) and lilies (Liliaceae). This phase of

Images clockwise from above:
Planting Poaceae in the monocotyledon section of the Systematic Beds;
Plants establishing in the monocotyledon section of the Systematic Beds

'In autumn and winter 2024–2025 we cut the new bed design into the turf, and began bed preparation, which included levelling, clearing of stones and addition of organic matter'

‘The newly introduced species will thrive in the environmental conditions of the Tropical Wetlands House, and will increase the diversity grown here’

work was a collaboration between the Horticultural and Curatorial teams, and involved extensive research to verify existing plantings; to identify plants suitable to our local conditions which also had high collection value; to source new accessions; to propagate new material; and to design and establish new plantings. In autumn and winter 2024-2025 we cut the new bed design into the turf and began bed preparation, which included levelling, clearing of stones and the addition of organic matter. Once this work was complete we started populating the beds, replanting existing accessions, which had been verified or were of significant collection value. New accessions were also introduced, either as plants from donors such as Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, which donated accessions of grasses of known wild origin, or as plants propagated in-house from seed acquired from donor organisations, such as the Millennium Seed Bank. These new plantings established well during spring and summer 2025, and we will continue to add to these as new propagules mature to planting size. In conjunction with this work staff were also starting the process for the final section of the Systematic Beds, the Calyciflorae (or northern section) which contains the roses, peas, carrots and asters among others. For this section the tasks of verification, decanting, identifying suitable species, sourcing, propagating and designing bed layout are already well underway, with work on the ground due to start in earnest in autumn-winter 2025-2026, when beds will be cleared of existing plantings and the site levelled for re-turfing in 2026.

Tropical Wetlands

The Tropical Wetlands House displays a number of key species which thrive in wetland habitats. Among these are *Victoria cruziana*, the Amazonian waterlily whose buoyant leaves reach over 2m in diameter, and whose flowers change overnight from a white female to a pink male; *Nelumbo nucifera* ‘Princess Kennedy of Ten Mile Creek’, which produces edible lotus flowers and whose leaves are highly hydrophobic (water repellent); and a rice paddy displaying hybrids of *Oryza sativa*, which produces a small crop of rice each year. Overhead a number of passionflowers, including *Passiflora discophora*, *P. cirrhiflora* and *P. citrina* provide climbing interest and welcome shade in this hot, humid environment. These plantings have been complemented by swathes of tropical perennials which have filled raised benches flanking the paths. While effective, these plantings have been of limited horticultural or educational value, and this year the Glasshouse Section have developed these raised features to incorporate material which has been housed long-term in our reserve houses, or which is recently acquired, to extend the interest and curatorial value of the plantings. Here we have taken the opportunity to include a wider range of epiphytic species, including orchids, ferns and bromeliads. Some of these, such as the orchid *Cymbidium tracyanum* are grown on branches installed amongst the herbaceous plantings, and a display of 17 bark-mounted tillandsia, including the Peruvian endemic *Tillandsia balsasensis*, have been hung on the dividing glass wall. Other introductions include the ornamental chenille plant *Acalypha hispida*; the ginger relative *Hedychium hasseltii* which is endemic to Java; *Werauhia sanguinolenta*, a large bromeliad of known wild origin; and the moon flower, *Strophocactus wittii*. Plantings of the South American sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*) whose leaves fold

Horticulture

Epiphyte branch in the Tropical Wetlands House

Horticulture

‘It is impossible to water sufficiently all of our trees given demand and current resources, though we frequently water establishing trees which have been planted less than five years’

when touched as a defence against herbivores, add educational value to the House. The newly introduced species will thrive in the environmental conditions of the Tropical Wetlands House, will increase the diversity grown here and add welcome interest for our visitors.

Weather Impacts

2025 has been another dry year, in which our rainfall from January to August inclusive reached only 200mm, a small proportion of our average annual rainfall of 557mm. This inevitably had an impact on our collections and our work. One of the most obvious effects of low rainfall is the browning of our lawns, and from early summer this was evident throughout the Garden. In the Glasshouses, staff have watered relentlessly though spring and summer in public and nursery houses, using water from rainwater tanks and our reverse osmosis machine. In the open Garden, water is sourced from our licensed borehole, and since spring the team have been irrigating using seep hoses and canons to ensure that new and existing annual and perennial plantings are sufficiently watered to ensure establishment and prevent losses. Across the Garden we have seen little sign of long-term stress in annual and perennial plantings, having been able to adequately irrigate these collections.

Management of our woody collections, and particularly our tree stock, during periods of drought and hot weather is more challenging, especially as we experience more episodes of these conditions. It is impossible to water sufficiently all of our trees given demand and current resources, though we frequently water establishing trees which have been planted less than five years. In early June, following a period of two weeks without rain and temperatures consistently exceeding 25°C, we roped off a number of mature tree specimens noted for their vulnerability to summer branch drop. Species known to be particularly vulnerable to this condition include *Fagus* (beech), *Cedrus* (cedar), *Populus* (poplar), *Quercus* (oak) and *Pinus* (pine). The exclusion zones impacted visitor access in key areas of the Garden, including the Main Walk, Middle Walk and South Walk, and cordons were lifted in August, following significant rainfall and falling temperatures. While none of the key trees considered vulnerable lost limbs during summer, the beech tree beside the Rising Path dropped a limb due to summer branch drop, reminding us of the unpredictability of branch drop, and also of the susceptibility of our trees during periods of low rainfall and high temperatures as experienced in recent summers. In late summer the canopy of the *Parrotia persica* (Persian ironwood) overhanging Middle Walk collapsed unexpectedly, due to weather-related stress, additional strain in the intricate self-grafted branch network of the broad canopy, and also potentially due to age and size. We have undertaken an internal assessment of this specimen, and hope that we will be able to retain it, but we will also seek a second opinion from our external tree surveyor in September 2025 before making a final decision on the future of this tree. In the Woodland Garden we removed a mature specimen of *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (katsura tree) which predates our accession records. This species is known to have limited resistance to honey fungus, which is prevalent throughout this area of the Garden, and this combined with weather-related stress resulted in its demise. High winds have also

Reduction to *Cercis siliquastrum* (Judas tree) in the Autumn Garden

impacted our tree collection, and in July we reduced the crown of the *Cercis siliquastrum* in the Autumn Garden following winds which caused tension and extensive cracking in the limbs of this species. In autumn 2024 our champion stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) in the Alpine Yard fell due to a structural failure at the union of a fork in the stem, and this resulted in the loss of this venerable tree, and also in extensive damage to the toilet block. While this failing wasn’t directly due to adverse weather it served to remind us of the unpredictability regarding tree safety in a public garden.

Our primary aim in managing our tree stock is to ensure public safety, and every three years an external contractor does a safety hazard survey and presents recommendations based on their findings. To supplement this our own staff carry out regular in-house tree surveys. We are unable to predict weather conditions or the impacts of adverse weather on our tree collection, but endeavour to maintain the collection in as safe a condition as possible, but also need to react to the impacts of weather events. Looking to the future we are considering which tree species will offer greater resilience in a changing climate. In addition, we are also developing a project to increase our rainwater harvesting capacity, and to extend our irrigation ring main which runs off our borehole, to future proof our potential to water the Garden to help us safeguard collections and plantings in the coming years.

Learning

Holly Clothier
Head of Learning

Schools in the Garden

The Schools Programme remained central to learning in the Garden, engaging pupils from Early Years through to Sixth Form. We welcomed 9,479 students across 295 school visits and 38 home education visits, including 77 workshops led by our Schools Learning Officers. We were pleased to welcome 55 schools visiting the Garden for the first time, expanding our reach into new communities.

Primary schools remained the largest group, with 5,507 pupils from 145 visits. Secondary school engagement grew substantially: 1,866 students across 67 visits, with 11 taught workshops, more than double the previous year. Working with Bottisham Village College, we developed a new plant disease workshop and a self-led resource on plant adaptations, now offered more widely.

Sixth Form and Further Education visits brought 923 students across 32 visits, including three taught workshops. Home Education groups accounted for 630 children and Early Years groups (including Reception) 616.

The Gatsby Schools Visit Grant continued to remove barriers through transport bursaries and free workshops. Between September 2024 and July 2025, 2,115 pupils from 43 schools benefitted, attending 67 workshops. Of these, 1,002 pupils came from schools with above-average pupil premium percentages (24 schools).

A particular highlight was the Plant Responses event in June, run in partnership with Hills Road Sixth Form College. Over three days, 414 students and 15 staff explored rapid movement and gravitropism through carousel activities. The event was enriched by Garden Guides and our new Plant Explainers volunteer team – Cambridge University students and recent graduates – who inspired participants with demonstrations and enthusiasm for plant science. 67% of students described the tour as "extremely or very enjoyable."

'The tour guide was brilliant and the enthusiasm and love for biology that everyone demonstrated was the best part of the day because it was contagious'

The Sixth Form Access Pass scheme continues to support independent study, issuing 869 passes across seven colleges, resulting in 432 visits by 331 students.

Beyond the Schools Programme, the Learning Team supported outreach at Hills Road's Big Biology Day (2,000+ participants) and hosted two Year 10 students from The Netherhall School for work experience through the Employability Partnership. A further four students from Sawston and Cottenham Village Colleges enjoyed placements with the Horticulture Team.

Higher and Further Education

The Garden welcomed 883 Higher and Further Education students across 46 visits, including 13 taught workshops. A new HE botany workshop trial introduced students to botanical skills through close observation in the Systematic Beds. Their feedback is shaping development of our HE offer.

We also issued 142 student passes to Anglia Ruskin University, enabling 32 students to make 38 self-guided visits.

The newly launched Plant Explainers programme proved a great success; we trained 55 volunteers in public engagement. Together, they contributed 130+ hours at events such as Twilight, Family Saturdays, Festival of Plants and Plant Responses, sharing knowledge with thousands of visitors.

Support for the Horticultural Traineeship was expanded; the Learning Team helped manage the programme and provide academic guidance on assignments. New workshops on sustainability, wellbeing and public engagement were introduced, and Trainees joined activities from Community Gardening to Wild Garden Walks, gaining insight into engagement within a botanic garden.

We hosted a three-month BBSRC PIPS placement with PhD student Saskia Birch, who designed the Magpies' Magic Forest family trail and created new Schools' Garden signage. Saskia also supported a wide range of activities, building experience in interpretation and science communication.

The team supported delivery of Botany Hour, piloted in a hybrid format for the first time. Seven participants joined remotely in weekly workshops with Ángela Cano; expansion to 25 online participants is planned for the next course iteration.

The team also contributed to the cross-Garden Biodiversity Working Group, developing a new biodiversity strategy. They supported biodiversity work in areas such as the long grass of the Fairway, providing guidance on species selection, leading regular surveys, and planning future educational workshops.

Families

Families remain one of our most enthusiastic audiences. This year, we delivered eight themed trails: three new ones (*Order of the Golden Lily* – 7,450 distributed; *Fox's Forgotten Words* – 4,500; and *Professor Filbert's Plant Heroes* – 2,000 to date) alongside five returning favourites (*Autumn Art Trail, Little Robin's Christmas Trail, Crazy Cone Caper, Mystery History, Bee School*). Together, they were enjoyed by over 23,000 visitors.

Family Saturdays remained popular, with 12 themed sessions ranging from *Lavender Love* to *Meet the Mints*. These attracted 654 children and 578 adults. Seven holiday workshops across Easter, summer and half-term engaged a further 357 children and 271 adults.

Events

Large-scale family events included:

- **Apple Day (October 2024):** engaged 600+ participants with a printing and apple-tasting workshop inspired by apple-themed stories.
- **Fungi Field Day (September 2024):** attracted ~1,300 visitors for talks, walks and creative workshops such as *Fantastical Fungi*, led by artist Hilary Cox Condron and Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination.
- **Twilight at the Museums (February 2025):** drew 1,332 visitors, who explored the glasshouses at night and joined a family orchid hunt.
- **Cambridge Festival (March 2025):** welcomed 600 visitors, many trying interactive science activities such as pollinating a giant flower or meeting a giant Venus flytrap.
- **Festival of Plants (June 2025):** saw 270+ participants participate in a family drop-in Venus flytrap activity; 100 trails distributed on native tree and their pests; and seven Plant Explainers share conservation stories around the Garden.

Image above: *Family activity at Fungi Field Day*

9,479 Student visitors

295 School groups hosted

23,000 Enjoyed our family trails

55 New schools visited CUBG

Communities

The Garden's Community Programme continues to expand in reach and ambition. We welcomed 2,308 individual community visitors through our Membership scheme, which comprised 72 groups by the end of 2024. We are on track to exceed this by the end of 2025.

Community Gardening, run in partnership with the Independent Living Service, has become a cornerstone of the programme. Participants grew crops including lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes, with produce to take home.

Across the year, we ran 59 workshops, from guided walks with Camsight to collaborations with the UCM's Portals to the World and Encounters programmes. A standout initiative was the Birdsong Touch Tours, created in collaboration with the UCM and Museum of Zoology, where blind and visually impaired visitors explored birdsong and sensory habitats through guided walks and touch.

We distributed 1,000+ free tickets to community organisations, including Cambridge City Foodbank and the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign, though uptake remained low at ~14%. We are investigating barriers to entry and ways to increase use next year.

In June, we launched a participatory research project with 15 co-researchers from five community groups. Through 11 workshops, they explored community needs and experiences of the Garden. The project will culminate in a creative output and a report of findings.

Adult and Lifelong Learning

We delivered 70 adult courses, attended by 776 participants, including 392 first-time learners. Eight courses were online, reaching 91 learners beyond the Garden.

The Science on Sundays series featured five talks, with 130+ attendees in total. For the first time, these were recorded and shared online, helping broaden reach.

We also piloted Wild Garden Walks, early morning tours focusing on seasonal wildflowers and their folklore. Sessions were small but deeply valued and will evolve into a short course in 2026.

Interpretation

A major update to interpretation across the Garden was delivered this year, with a focus on underserved areas, creating more engaging and artistic content and increasing the amount of temporary signage. Highlights included:

- Near-completion of new Glasshouse Range interpretation.
- Permanent features: six oak lecterns, a BBSRC-funded daisy model in the Systematic Beds, new Schools' Garden boards, and a plant list for the British Wild Plants area.
- Temporary A4 boards on themes such as sunflower damage, standing deadwood, and drought stress.

Images above and right:
Cambridge City Council Independent Living Service

Learning

Adult trails remained an important resource, with 9,040 leaflets distributed across 12 topics. The most popular were *Evolution of Plants,* the *Snowdrop Trail*, and *Dyes from Plants*.

Staff and Volunteers

Staff attended the BGEN conference in Wales, which explored climate crisis education. Raphaella Hull began the BSBI Identiplant course, while Louise Campbell completed training in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture with Thrive.

The Learning Team's achievements would not have been possible without volunteers. With the addition of the Plant Explainers, over 80 volunteers supported school, family, and community activities, enriching the visitor experience with their time and knowledge.

This year we also said farewell to Sally Lee, Family Learning Officer, who after 18 years of dedicated service leaves to develop her own business. Her contribution has shaped learning at the Garden for nearly two decades.

Access for All:
The Gatsby Schools Visit Grant

Holly Clothier
Head of Learning

'Without the grant we wouldn't have been able to facilitate the trip. Most of our children rarely leave Ware, so it was wonderful to see them experience something new'

We are committed to ensuring that as many children as possible have the chance to visit the Garden and experience the wonder of plants and the natural world. In October 2023, we were delighted to receive support from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, to fund a three-year programme (2023-2026) designed to remove financial barriers to visiting the Garden and increase state school participation in our schools programme. The grant funds bursaries worth £25,000 per year, enabling more pupils to experience the Garden through guided workshops led by CUBG Schools Learning Officers.

How the Bursaries Work

The Gatsby Schools Visit Grant is designed to reduce financial barriers for state schools. It offers two levels of support:

- **Tier One**: All eligible state schools from designated counties can claim full reimbursement of travel costs for a taught workshop.

- **Tier Two**: Schools with a higher-than-average percentage of pupils eligible for pupil premium (above the national average of 28.7%) also receive their workshop free of charge (normally £150).

This two-tier system ensures that all state schools can benefit from the scheme, while providing additional support to those with the greatest financial need.

A wide variety of subjects are on offer; some favourites include visiting the Glasshouse range to learn about plant adaptations in the different biomes represented in "Around the world in a morning" and learning about the lifecycle of a flowering plant – including dressing up as a bee whilst climbing inside a giant flower – in "A plant's life". As much of the workshop as possible is spent outdoors with real plants, with the aim of giving pupils experiences that would be impossible in their school classrooms.

Expanding access in Year Two

The first year of the grant revealed the scale of enthusiasm for the scheme. Some schools brought multiple classes to the Garden, with one even bringing the entire school population. To ensure fairness and maximise reach, this year we introduced a cap: each school could use the grant for one year group. It has always been a core aim for the grant to benefit as many qualifying pupils as possible. With this aim in mind, schools who had been particularly heavy users of the grant in the first year were restricted from claiming this year.

'Due to being from an area of deprivation it has given the children an experience NONE of them have ever had. Thank you.'

Targeting Participation

The bursaries are open to state schools in eight counties surrounding Cambridge: Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and South Lincolnshire.

This year, the Learning Team concentrated on schools that had not yet made use of the bursary. We prioritised schools with above-average pupil premium levels, particularly those located relatively close to the Garden but who had never visited. Schools in Fenland, Thetford, King's Lynn and Haverhill were directly contacted to raise awareness of the grant and encourage bookings.

Of the 73 schools originally identified as priority targets, 33 have now booked visits.

We were also pleased to increase secondary school participation this year, with eight secondary visits compared to just two in the first year.

The bursaries were received very enthusiastically: by early December, all the money for Year Two had been committed for bookings across the school year.

Impact

This year, the grant supported:

- 2,115 pupils from 43 schools
- Across 67 taught workshops
- Including 21 schools visiting the Garden for the first time

Of these pupils:

- 1,033 were from schools with above-average pupil premium levels, 24 schools in total
- Of these 24 schools with above-average pupil premium levels, half were first-time visitors to the Garden

‘None of this would be possible without the support of the Gatsby Charitable Foundation and their commitment to improving access to educational and environmental opportunities’

The feedback from teachers and students has been incredible and demonstrates what a profound impact these bursaries have had on the schools and students who take part.

Looking Ahead

The Gatsby Schools Visit Grant continues to have a transformational impact, helping children who might never otherwise visit a botanic garden experience the wonder of plants and the natural world. As we look ahead to next year our focus will be on:

- Engaging schools geographically close to the Garden who have not yet taken advantage of the scheme.
- Reaching more local secondary schools with high pupil premium levels.
- Collaborating with school programmes that focus specifically on pupils who need more support in school and receive pupil premium.

By doing so, we aim to continue widening access, nurturing curiosity, and perhaps, inspire the next generation of plant scientists, gardeners and nature lovers.

‘I love this! I want to be a botanist’

Year 3 pupil

None of this would be possible without the support of the Gatsby Charitable Foundation. Their commitment to improving access to educational and environmental opportunities is helping more children discover the natural world in meaningful ways. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and look forward to working together in the final year of the grant.

One Year 3 pupil summed up the inspiration perfectly:

“I love this! I want to be a botanist.”

Visitors & Events

Nicci Steele-Williams
Head of Visitor Services

Total visitors for the period: 367,745

We welcomed 367,745 visitors to the Garden this year, including all our usual annual public events and the second performance of Botanic Lights. This annual total almost exactly matched our record-breaking visitor numbers in 2023-24 (367,812).

Apple Day – 3,498 visitors

Our annual Apple Day in October half term was thoroughly enjoyable, the apple tasting tent with its 20+ unusual varieties – served by Garden staff and volunteers – remaining perennially popular. The specialist talks and highlights tours by staff and volunteer Garden Guides booked up quickly, and family craft sessions in the Schools' Garden from the Learning Team were particularly popular. The Main Lawn buzzed with food trucks, music and visitors having a lovely time, and the East of England Apples & Orchards project provided their usual apple identification service, while we also hosted stalls from the Wildlife Trust and the RSPB.

All Garden teams are involved in preparing and running Apple Day, which results in a collaboration enjoyed by visitors and colleagues alike. We are always particularly grateful to the many volunteers who help make it a special day.

Apple Day

Cambridge Botanic Lights – 24,834 visitors

The Garden's second Cambridge Botanic Lights series brought 24,834 visitors between Thursday and Sunday evenings each week in late November and early December 2024. Held over 13 nights, the Garden put on a fabulous, kaleidoscopic show like never before. As in the inaugural year, the stewarding was managed entirely by staff from the Garden plus the Plant Sciences Department, Cory Library and University Herbarium. Everyone enjoyed working together on these winter evenings and sharing the beautiful, illuminated Garden with our visitors, many of whom were new to us. As before, the trail led round the Garden from both gates, with highlighted features across the Garden, and a focus as always on the plants with some completely new installations bringing wonder, interest, delight and fun. It was all generally agreed to be an even more fantastic and exciting display than the first year.

We are now planning the third Cambridge Botanic Lights with great enthusiasm!

367,745 Total visitors

Cambridge Botanic Lights

Festival of Plants

Festival of Plants – 2,771 visitors

We had a wonderful Saturday for Festival of Plants on 14 June 2025. After a cool, grey start, by late morning the weather was glorious and the Garden – and all our activities – were in full summer flow. The Plant Sciences tent was full of scientists from across the University; our horticultural team were challenged by visitors' plant conundrums in the Ask the Gardener tent; lots of fully-booked guided tours took in the seasonal sights; and the Talking Plants tent with its 10-15 minute drop-in bite-size talks throughout the day from Garden and Department colleagues, engaged visitors with some of the latest plant science research: topics were as diverse as '*Broad'n Mind: broad beans for mental health and planetary health*' and '*Good and bad plant viruses*' to '*Why do succulent plants work the night shift*?'. In the relaxed summer atmosphere, there was music, plus plant and food stalls, on the Main Lawn and family activities proved very popular in the Schools' Garden.

Thank you to all our volunteers and colleagues from across the University who help make the event so enjoyable.

‘My family and I really loved this year’s Botanic Lights! We are already looking forward to next year’s show’

Sounds Green – 11,024 visitors

Sounds Green, our summer concert series which forms part of the Cambridge Summer Music Festival, continued many years of thoroughly enjoyable evening open-air music. This year there were again five Wednesdays in July, over which 11,024 visitors enjoyed the live, vibrant music. This season’s performers included first-time acts Beskydy: Klezmer Band and Vasilis + the Essex Jazz Collective, alongside returners Prime Bass, Honey & the Bear and Cores Do Samba. The evenings were extremely popular and the Main Lawn was alive with both dancing and picnicking.

This year’s series was, once more, kindly sponsored by Birketts LLP.

Science on Sundays

Visitors enjoyed Science on Sundays free monthly drop-in talks between March and July, bringing our visitors the latest discoveries in plant science, as well as research linked to the plant collection at the Garden, in a 30-minute nutshell. This year’s programme included a wide range of subjects – from ‘*Behind the scenes of CUBG’s plant collecting expeditions*’ and ‘*Patterns and form: Lessons from plants*’, to ‘*The CUBG phenology project: How is the climate affecting the seasonal changes in our trees?*’ and *‘A five-star hotel for nitrogen-fixing bacteria: The symbiotic root nodule in legumes*’.

Exhibitions

In spring, the International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY) exhibition returned to the Garden, featuring a wonderful selection of highly placed photographs from the competition’s main categories, from vast landscapes to microscopic fungi.

Cores Do Samba performing at Sounds Green

International Garden Photographer of the Year 2025

Visitors enjoying free tours of the Garden

For the third year, the exhibition again featured winners of a photo competition open to our visitors for images of the Garden itself on the subject of ‘Weird and Wonderful in Cambridge University Botanic Garden’. Over 300 photographs of the Garden were entered and judged by a small panel comprised of IGPOTY and CUBG staff. The top three photographs were *‘Lotus Flower Seedheads’* by Allan Hale; *‘Seductive Jade Vine Stamens’* by Claudia Gaupp; and *‘Rugged Canyons Cut Through Centuries of Rock’* by Jannett Klinke, which despite its geological title featured *Dioscorea elephantipes*, which forms a bulbous trunk-like caudex (swollen stem) resembling an elephant’s foot. The judges were interested to note that all the plants in the top three are to be found in our Glasshouse Range.

Guided Tours, Plant Explainers and Bitesize Talks

Our wonderful volunteer Guides welcomed some newly trained Guides to their team, and continued to deliver fascinating tours to visitors, both free regular Sunday tours and *ad hoc* charged tours. The second free tour on Sundays, added last year, continued to be enjoyed by visitors throughout the year.

Over the Easter holidays, we put on daily guided tours from Guides and staff, which proved very popular. In the summer holidays, we expanded our offer to visitors, again providing tours daily, whilst also adding a bitesize Talking Plants spot, each day a member of staff selecting a plant in the Garden to talk about to visitors for 10-15 minutes. These talks were fascinating and incredibly varied!

We have also initiated a lively team of trained volunteer Plant Explainers, students recruited from the Plant Sciences Department, who assist us with visitor engagement at events and have really enhanced the visitors’ enjoyment and knowledge when on duty.

We are so grateful to the many volunteers and colleagues who help deliver this positive boost to our visitors’ Garden experience.

Friends

Anna Patterson Lee
Head of Development & Communications

We would like to thank our fantastic Friends for their continued support. As one of the biggest funders of the Garden, the Friends are vital to our activities and we are privileged to share our love of the Garden with them. This year, 80% of our membership is comprised of Friends who have renewed their membership and we are very grateful to them for their continued membership and support of the Garden.

While the Friends have enjoyed the usual range of outings and tours this year (see below for details), our Friends Administrator has also introduced a new activity into the programme – the monthly Friends Table. Every month since June, Helen has hosted a drop in coffee and chat session in the Garden Café for Friends. We're delighted that the event started strongly and we are now welcoming both returning and new Friends each month. We hope that this informal, friendly event will continue to be an easy way for Friends to meet each other and pop in for a chat with the Garden team.

In order to make sure that we continue to offer the most useful, relevant and interesting programme, this year we have been reviewing the Friends scheme. We would like to thank our fantastic volunteer, Sara Oldfield, who has supported this review and all the Friends who took the time to answer the survey. We have reviewed the results and are planning on making some changes to the programme in response, and also to make use of the new EPOS database and till system that will come into play soon. Hopefully next year's report will give details of the new scheme and systems and that it has all bedded in well!

We would also like to thank our Friends Holiday volunteer, Barbara Oliver, who supported this year's holiday to North Wales. This year's holiday went well, despite some transport issues at the end, and those on the trip were able to enjoy some beautiful gardens.

Friends Early Bird Tour of the Garden

Friends Events:

- King's College Gardens– 6 Aug 2024
- Woodlands BTS Tour with Tom Wheatcroft – 7 Nov
- Friends lecture – Fiona Reynolds – 19 Nov
- Wreath making – 2 Dec
- A Guide to birdsong (online) – 1 April 2025
- Early Bird Tours – 2 & 3 April
- Emmanuel College – 11 April
- Oxford BG and Magdalene College – 25 April
- Woodland Tour – 28 April
- Med Beds Tour – 13 May
- Gardens of Wales Holiday – 18 – 24 May
- Friends Table launch – 17 June (and every month since)
- Beth Chatto's Nursery and Green Island Gardens – 18 June
- Friends Evening highlights – 24 June
- Elton Hall and The Manor Hemingford Grey – 16 July

5,600 Total Memberships

8,424 Total Friends

Friends Woodlands Tour, with CUBG Landscapes Team Leader, Tom Wheatcroft

Development & Communications

Anna Patterson Lee
Head of Development & Communications

Development

Fundraising efforts have been focused on key projects, notably the Station Road Visitor Welcome Building. We are grateful to volunteer Jim Pateman for his support, and to the Thalia Foundation for their generous grant towards this project, which is set to open next year. Our thanks also go to Birketts LLP, for their continued sponsorship of Sounds Green, bringing music and community spirit to our evenings. We also thank Mills & Reeve for their support of Cambridge Botanic Lights, which illuminated the Garden in spectacular fashion over the winter.

This year, we also conducted reviews of both the Friends and Corporate Friends programmes, with heartfelt thanks to volunteers Sara Oldfield and Kerry Vermeulen for their invaluable contributions.

The Henslow Circle Patrons Group remained a vital part of our community, enjoying a diverse programme of events and welcoming new members with enthusiasm.

This year, we also conducted reviews of both the Friends and Corporate Friends programmes

Finally, we are thrilled to have received gifts supporting our Horticultural Traineeship programme from the Julia Rausing Trust and an anonymous donor. These contributions have enabled us to welcome two additional trainees to this highly sought after scheme. We also remained very grateful to the Gatsby Charitable Foundation for their continued support of the Gatsby School Bursary scheme

Snowdrop social media campaign

Communications

As ever, the team have been busy promoting annual events such as Cambridge Botanic Lights, the Festival of Plants, Sounds Green and Apple Day, while continuing to raise awareness of the Garden's work supporting plant science research, our collections, learning activities and Garden news.

Some of this year's big stories have included press interest in the new Expedition Botanist role, the movement of the Tahina Palm from CUBG down to the Eden Project and the paper from the Garden's

110 Countries users visited Website

12.6% Instagram reach increase

15% Facebook profile visits increase

71,304 LinkedIn impressions

Filming BBC's Antiques Roadtrip

Curatorial team about the work that the world's botanic gardens must do to protect global plant biodiversity. The Garden hosted BBC One's Antiques Road Trip, taking the presenters behind the scenes at the Herbarium, looking at the specimens that Darwin

This year's big stories have included press interest in the new Expedition Botanist role, the movement of the Tahina Palm from CUBG down to the Eden Project and the biodiversity paper from the Garden's Curatorial team

sent back from the voyage of the Beagle to his mentor and CUBG founder, John Stevens Henslow, and seeing how the Garden's current plant collecting work continues the Henslow/Darwin legacy and plays a crucial role in the conservation of plant species under threat. The Garden also featured in an award-winning television series that explored the relationship between alcohol and the land it comes from, including the Garden's partnership with the Cambridge Gin Distillery.

As well as the usual events, jobs, news and notices that are promoted on social media, there were also a number of short campaigns throughout the year to increase engagement and encourage visits to the Garden. In February we ran a snowdrop campaign where we posted a range of content across all our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter) and LinkedIn) using a countdown to #NationalSnowdropDay on the 7th February as our focus. There were 50 pieces of content in total,

‘While similar posts have performed well across all media, we are looking to diversify our posting to meet the interests and needs of different audiences’

including two snowdrop reels (short videos), seven ‘Snowdrop of the Day’ posts and 11 Instagram posts. We reached 185,000 accounts across all the activities. Posts were engaged with (liked, shared, saved etc) 7,500 times and we received 75 comments (all positive). Facebook posts had higher engagement than usual with the best post having 5.5 times our usual engagement and on Instagram, the posts reached twice as many accounts as usual, with similar engagement to our usual posts.

The summer of 2025 saw a series of videos posted on social media featuring members of staff talking about particular areas of the Garden to promote the summer ‘Talking Plants’ programme of pop up talks. These videos achieved fantastic engagement and were a great way to promote a new activity and showcase our brilliant horticulture team.

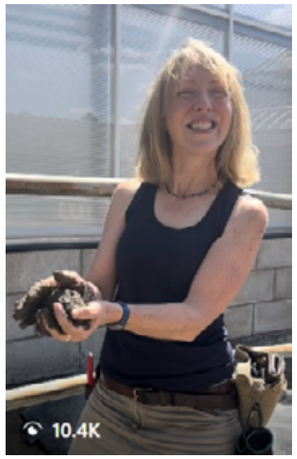
Some digital engagement figures are down from the previous year, we mainly ascribe that to the lack of a big, online event, such as the flowering of the moonflower. We have also become much less active on X (Twitter) and started posting on BlueSky, and looked at growing our LinkedIn profile and follower count. While similar posts have performed well across all media, we are looking to diversify our posting to meet the interests and needs of different audiences.

Figures:

- **Website:** 399,162 users from 110 countries. 1,158,189 page views in total
- **Instagram:** 23,644 followers (12.6% increase), 23,473 profile visits (1% increase)
- **Facebook:** 24,370 total followers (5.9% increase), 56,208 profile visits (15% decrease)
- **X (Twitter):** 56,208 profile visits (15% decrease), 165,770 total impressions (67% decrease)
- **YouTube:** 2,770 subscribers (1.7% increase), 30,737 views (47% decrease)
- **LinkedIn:** 2,297 total followers (up from 1,186 last year), 71,304 total impressions (not recorded last year)

During a busy year, we would again like to thank our amazing volunteers – Kat, Jim, Sara and Kerry – for everything that they have done to support our work, it is hugely appreciated.

Development & Communications



Images clockwise from top:
Guardian feature – top of science job; Talking Plants video showing Barbara Griffith feeding the Victoria cruziana*; Beverley Glover talking about Plants and Pollinators on In Our Time on BBC Radio 4*

Research Facilitated

Curation Team

Research Facilitated

Total fulfilled requests: 101

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Professor Beverley Glover, Director
Research programme focussed on the evolution and development of flowers, plant/pollinator interactions, and plant surface properties, funded by the ERC, BBSRC, NERC, HFSP, EU Marie Curie Actions, Leverhulme Trust, Isaac Newton Trust, and the Cambridge University Botanic Garden Research Fund. Material maintained at CUBG, analysed in the experimental plots, or accessed from living collections, for projects including:
• The relationship of floral morphology to pollination success in *Vicia faba*, with Dr Tom Wood (National Institute of Agricultural Botany), Roger Vickers (PGRO), Charlotte Apsey (PhD student) and Eric Muia (MPhil student).

• Molecular evolution of key developmental pathways in plants, with Dr Eva Herrero (post-doc) and Dr Facundo Romani (collaborating post-doc).

• Development and evolution of insect-mimicking petal spots in *Gorteria diffusa*, with Dr Allan Ellis (Stellenbosch University), Dr Joshua Kestel and Dr Zhiheng Huang (postdocs), and Farahnoz Kohjayori (PhD student).

• Development, function and evolution of iridescence in plants, with Dr Paula Rudall (RBG Kew), Professor Richard Bateman (RBG Kew), Professor Ulli Steiner (Adolphe Merkele Institute, Switzerland), Professor Silvia Vignolini (Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge), Dr Edwige Moyroud (Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge University), and Dr Bhavani Natarajan, Dr Humberto Herrera-Ubaldo, Dr Robert Bellow and Dr Yan Zhu (postdocs).

• Evolution and development of nectar spurs in *Linaria*, with Dr Hamish Symington (post-doc).

Professor Samuel Brockington, Curator
Research programme funded by NERC, the NSF, DEFRA and the Cambridge University Botanic Garden Research Fund, using material grown in the experimental glasshouses and across the living collections, primarily focussed on three main areas: Caryophyllales and betalain synthesis, the genus *Tulipa* and the genus *Eriospermum*.
• Sequencing transcriptomes in Caryophyllales in collaboration with Stephen Smith (University of Michigan) and Ya Yang (University of Minnesota).

• Metabolomic survey of Caryophyllales, focussing on tyrosine derived metabolites (with Hiroshi Maeda, University of Wisconsin).

• Studying the phylogeny, evolution and diversity of tulip species with former PhD student Brett Wilson and Flora and Fauna International (FFI).

• Sampling material for genomic sequencing projects in Caryophyllales e.g. to generate highly contiguous assemblies for *Macarthuria*, *Stegnosperma*, and *Achatocarpus*, with Nang Wang (Post-doc).

‘In the past year we have supported research by providing researchers with material of 101 accessions’

• Studying the evolution of transcriptional regulation in betalain pigmentation with Jasmina Dzurlic (PhD student).

• Studying the molecular assembly of the betalain pathway across separate origins of Caryophyllales, with George Garnett (PhD student).

• Studying the evolution and function of catecholamines – animal-type neurotransmitters in plants, with Saswata Dey (PhD student).

• Studying the evolution of high altitude glasshouse plants in the Himalayas with Tao Feng (Post-Doc)

Cambridge University

Department of Plant Sciences

Kristina Buch (Molecular Physiology)
This researcher investigates the micro-scale structures on the floral epidermis in Eschscholzioideae and Papaveraceae. The petal epidermis in *Eschscholzia californica* has been shown to consist of prism-like cells in which the ridge of the prism is filled with cell wall material. The structure and chemical composition of petal/leaf ridges in *Tulipa regelii* are investigated and contrasted to findings in the Eschscholziideae

Prof. John Carr (Virology and Molecular Plant Pathology)
The researchers are studying various viruses and their ability to infect plants or influence animals as vectors. In this year they explored the rate of pollen-mediated transmission of the seedborne non-pathogenic Vicia cryptic virus and grew chilli peppers for experimental work.

Prof. Howard Griffiths (Physiological Ecology)
ATAC-seq of *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi*. Use of the Experimental Glasshouses to grow *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi*. This research aims to perform ATAC-sequencing on *K. fedtschenkoi* leaf samples to capture chromatin accessibility status of key CAM genes.

Dr Jake Harris (Chromatin and Memory)
Growth of tomato experimental lines for bulking seed stocks.

Prof. Ian Henderson (Genetic and Epigenetic Inheritance in Plants)
Investigating effect of *StHEI10* overexpression on crossover occurrence in potato, with an aim toward increased meiotic recombination in euchromatin. The researchers grow individual plants to maturity, sampling unopened floral buds, and hand pollinating to generate fruit for seed harvest.

Prof. Julian Hibberd (Molecular Physiology)
Grafting palm and banana for long term growth impact. Use of the Experimental Glasshouses to grow *Musa* sp. (banana), *Elaeis* sp. (oil palm), *Phoenix* sp. (date palm). The work involves grafting palm and banana and growing this alongside non-grafted controls to see the effect of growth over time. The primary hypothesis is to assess whether grafting has a negative impact on the plant.
C4 Rice project. Use of the Experimental Glasshouses to grow *Oryza sativa*.

Growing tobacco and lettuce plants for analysis of gene function.

Prof. Johannes Kromdjik (Environmental Plant Physiology)
Acquiring knowledge to accelerate yield gain in Akaya. Use of the Experimental Glasshouses to grow *Gynandropsis gynandra*. Seed production from experimental maize plants.

Dr Leonie Luginbuehl (Plant Physiology and Symbiosis)
Growing *Medicago truncatula* to bulk seeds.

Dr Barbara Neto-Bradley (Forest Ecology and Conservation)
This project aims to understand how research interest in plant species changes after they are assessed via the IUCN Red List, the researcher compiles records from various botanic garden databases, using plant accession dates, to determine whether species representation in garden collections increases after assessment via the IUCN Red List.

Prof. Uta Paszkowski (Cereal Symbiosis)
Assessing extent of colonisation by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in diverse rice material grown in different phosphate levels.

Dr Nicola Patron (Plant Molecular Engineering)
Growing *Bryonia alba* and spraying the plants with methyl jasmonate to simulate herbivory response and extracting RNA for RNA sequencing from different tissues.

Dr Facundo Romani (Synthetic Biology for Engineering Plant Growth)
This project explores alternative liverwort model systems, particularly leafy liverworts. The researcher seeks to bridge the gap between *Physcomitrium* and *Marchantia* and have an alternative species that is as simple as *Marchantia* but displays a morphology more similar to mosses (leaves, phyllotaxis, axillary branching). CUBG provided samples of 11 taxa.

Prof. Alison Smith (Plant Metabolism)
The Botanic Garden has provided space for the Algal Innovation Centre glasshouse facility, to allow different algal species to be grown to establish what role algae can play in the development of a low carbon economy.

Dr Alexis L. Sperling (Crop Science Centre)
This project studies the effect of regulators in *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wilt nematodes). CUBG provided cuttings of *Pinus pinaster* to be used to stimulate the infection state in the nematodes.

Dr Ahmed Warsame (Legume Crop Resilience and Quality)
Multiplying seeds of various cowpea varieties to explore cowpea diversity.

Yi Zhao (Evolution and Diversity)
The researcher studies the types of organs from which the perianth of Caryophyllineae members is derived. Members of Caryophyllaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Aizoaceae, Montiaceae, Portulacaceae, and Cactaceae are of special interest to the researcher. CUBG provided flowering material from taxa of interest.

Other Departments, University of Cambridge

14 Researchers supported at Cambridge University, excluding Dept. of Plant Sciences

Dr Eyal Maori
Department of Biochemistry
Studying RNA Communication Between Honeybees. Previous work by this group has demonstrated that honeybees share RNA messages between members of the hive through worker – and royal jellies ingestion. The research work at the Botanic Garden aims to identify which RNA molecules are being shared within the hive population and whether these transmissible RNA molecules can promote immunity, brood development, and adaptation to environmental changes.

Dr Raymond Wightman
Imaging Core Facility Manager, Sainsbury Laboratory
CUBG provided researchers samples of *Paulownia fargesii* following feedback on publication in which the researchers examined secondary wall ultrastructure in fully hydrated woody tissue of diverse tree species. This is part of a collaboration between Sainsbury Laboratory and Jagiellonian University, Poland. Twig samples were harvested with support from CUBG staff and examined using the cryo-electron microscopy platform.

Dr Edwige Moyroud
Sainsbury Laboratory
Measuring the number of pollinator visits between various *Hibiscus* species and lines with different floral characteristics, using video recording in experimental plots.

Dr Madelaine Bartlett
Sainsbury Laboratory
The researchers explore the development and evolution of grasses, with a focus on the evolution of flowers and floral organs. CUBG provided leaves and flowers of 16 Poaceae taxa.

Dr Euan Smithers
Sainsbury Laboratory
The researchers investigate the consequences of cell division on patterning, such as Turing patterns. Provisional simulation results indicate that cellular arrangements can lead to anisotropic patterning. The researchers therefore aim to test whether these simulation results align with patterning and cellular arrangements observed in real life. This work is conducted primarily by examining petals and leaves with spot and stripe patterns. CUBG provided petal and leaf material of eight taxa.

Terice Kelly
Sainsbury Laboratory
The research project focuses on the diversity and morphology of flowers in the grass family (Poaceae). CUBG provided flower and meristem material of 5 taxa.

Samuel Shotter
Sainsbury Laboratory
The researcher investigates how diversity in plants can arise from differential uses of conserved developmental programmes, using the leaf blade programme as a model. CUBG provided flower and meristem material of 18 taxa.

Rebekka Katajisto
Hamilton Kerr Institute
The researcher sought assistance from CUBG staff members in identification of flowers on a 16th-century painting.

Dr Darshil Shah
Department of Architecture
The researchers explore plant-based materials as alternatives to anthropogenic materials. CUBG provided pinecones from eight *Pinus* taxa to researchers to study and replicate the structures and hydromorphic behaviour.

Haira Gandolfi
Faculty of Education
Roots, Bark and Leaves: Afro-Indigenous Narratives of Plants Looted in the Colonial Period.
This interdisciplinary research project aims to valorize traditional and popular Brazilian knowledge through narratives associated with plant life in botanical gardens. The research correlates with the fields of botany, anthropology, education and the arts, seeking to understand botany's connection with storing species from other continents and its colonial socio-historical context. CUBG staff facilitated use of the Herbarium collections (CGE) for this project.

Luke Malone
Department of Architecture
UPWEARS aims to use concepts inspired by nature to achieve upgraded performance of technical textiles such as shock absorbance, breathability, and bioluminescence by looking at the structure-function-property relationships within the fruits, and how the outer cupule or burr protects the seed as it falls to the ground. CUBG provided fruits of *Castanea sativa*, *Platanus orientalis*, and *Cupressus pendula*.

Shuija Yang
Needham Research Institute
This research scholarship program at the Cambridge University Library explores living plants introduced from China in the botanical garden. CUBG shared Chinese plant data with the researcher.

Dr Theodora Tryfona
Biochemistry Department
Xylan in grasses exhibits significant structural diversity, comprising at least three distinct xylan domains. Researchers investigated whether this variation is exclusive to grasses within monocots or if it also occurs across other monocot clades. CUBG provided 16 taxa for analysis.

Caroline Akello
Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics
The aim of this project is to replicate and refine the recent findings of Gauci et al. (Nature, 2024) which suggest that tree surfaces represent globally significant sinks of atmospheric methane. Gauci et al. (2024) measured methane consumption at significant rates on the trunks of trees across a range of locations and tree species which they attribute to methane consumption on the tree surface. To verify this result, the researchers collected bark, twig and leaf samples to measure methane consumption. CUBG provided bark samples of 30 taxa.

Mengzhuomei Wang
Department of Architecture
This study investigates how different plant compositions and configurations influence human cognitive function. The goal is to understand whether certain planting patterns—such as layering, species variety, and visual richness—are associated with measurable cognitive benefits. The aim is to contribute practical insights to the fields of urban landscape design and public health by identifying planting strategies that may enhance mental well-being in urban settings. CUBG provided permit for access to glasshouses during the research period.

Dr Eva Namusoke
Fitzwilliam Museum
Based on the findings of the African Collections Futures report, the researcher designed an exhibition to reflect on underexplored African labour in all its forms through looking at the production, design, and export of Northern Nigerian leather. The display brings together objects from The Fitzwilliam Museum, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University Library, Cambridge University Press and the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. CUBG created an herbarium specimen of *Sorghum bicolor* from the living collection to showcase the materials involved in dying leather and stuffing leather cushions.

External Researchers – UK

34 Research projects supported within the UK, excluding those at Cambridge University

Eliana Dunlap
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
The researchers, along with BGCI and the International Plant Sentinel Network, investigate methods of pest and disease data recording across living collections in the UK.

Rhona Watson
Garden Moth Scheme UK
The Garden Moth Scheme (GMS) monitors the numbers and species of moths in gardens across the United Kingdom. At CUBG, volunteers count and identify moths found in the trap every Friday morning.

Nadine Mitschunas
UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
The researchers work on a peatland restoration project at Pymoor in the fenlands, which involves re-wetting a former arable field on peat soil. They are in the early stages of setting up a trial area on the re-wetted field which involves re-establishing natural high quality fenland vegetation which includes *Lathyrus palustris*. CUBG provided seed of *Lathyrus palustris*.

Melany Henot
University of Edinburgh
The project is on the unusual sex determination in black winged fungus gnats (Family: Sciaridae). This required researchers to collect live fungus gnats to build a comprehensive phylogeny, as well as collecting mating system information. CUBG provided permit for access to glasshouses during the research period and collected fungus gnats.

Anna Dorling
University of Oxford
The Oxford Bee Lab, in collaboration with Phil Stevenson's group at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, is working on a project which investigates whether certain plants synthesise psychoactive drugs in their nectar in order to make it more attractive to bees. One of the aims is to screen the nectar of target plant species for the presence of some drugs of interest (cholinergic agonists and antagonists). CUBG provided researchers with access to the collection to collect nectar of *Areca catechu*.

Julian Doberski
University of the Third Age
This exchange was to provide flowering materials for a Botany Course taught at the University of the Third Age. CUBG provided flower material of eight taxa.

Siân Joseph
University of Buckingham
As part of a Master's project in Garden History, this project looks at plant nurseries used by Gertrude Jekyll. The researcher was interested in any archival documents at CUBG that referenced Reginald Cory in relation to Gertrude Jekyll and Ellen Willmott. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Jonathan Shanklin
Cambridge Natural History Society
This project is an annual survey of the fungal diversity at CUBG. CUBG provided permits for access during the research period.

John Martyn
Falmouth University
This project looks at ferns, their history, botany and the archival record of how they have been classified in the past and now. Whilst the main purpose of the project is to produce a range of photographs of ferns, the researcher is particularly interested in building this around a broader study of the plants themselves, their evolutionary past and their place in the geological record. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Danai Bada
Parkside Community College
This project was part of the coursework for Environmental Systems and Society IB diploma. The project is interested in examining the soil pH in different green spaces in Cambridge. CUBG provided permits to collect soil in the Garden.

Dr. Johan Kroon
Durham University
The researcher studies the evolutionary origin of cytoskeletal proteins using *Selaginella moellendorfii* as a model organism. The aim is to isolate nucleic acids (gDNA and in particular RNA) to generate a library for screening and to clone a number of cDNAs of interest. CUBG provided material of *Selaginella moellendorffii.*

Matthew Biggs
Unaffiliated, Freelance gardening writer and broadcaster
As part of a project to write the guidebook to Hidcote Manor Gardens for the National Trust, the researcher is interested in correspondence and exchange between Lawrence Johnston and CUBG in the 20th century. The researcher is interested in archival information and existing plants that may be linked to Lawrence Johnston. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Yolanda Morphakis
Capel Manor College
This project is concerned with garden design for a specific site at Capel Manor College. Specifically, the researcher is interested in New Zealand taxa suitable for clayey, moist but well-drained soil, for RHS hardiness zones H3-H7. CUBG provided a list of 120 plants included in the terrace gardens (New Zealand Beds).

Mark L'Argent
Largent Art
This project is concerned about origin of *Rosa rubiginosa*. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Victor Kang
Spotta Ltd.
Spotta Ltd is a start-up based in Cambridge, UK, that develops autonomous insect monitoring devices. This project aims to inform the design and development of a device aimed at helping citrus growers monitor for the Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*), an insect pest that is severely impacting citrus growers worldwide. CUBG permitted access to trees in the Garden to trial the device in preparation for use in overseas trials.

Amiya Young
University of Manchester
This project investigates whether plant elemental composition, relative to that of the soil surrounding the plant, is phylogenetically conserved. The researcher uses phylogenetic marker gene sequencing

and ICP analyses to investigate this relationship. CUBG provided topsoil and leaves of eight taxa.

Vera Hunter Blair
Cardiff University
This project focuses on photographing Pinaceae species which are native to Japan (firs, spruces, pines, cedars, larches). CUBG provided information on the topic.

Amy Robertson
Aberdeen Grammar School
This project is concerned with allelopathic activity of conifer trees and the application to cancer research. The researcher applied extracts of different conifer needles to petri-dish-grown cress to measure the effects of allelopathic chemicals on growth. CUBG provided cuttings of *Taxus baccata* and *Taxus canadensis*.

Adeline Harant
The Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich
This project aims to understand the impact of climate change on xerophytes. The researcher applies a mix of genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics to understand the impacts of climate change on these life forms. CUBG provided cuttings of *Selenicereus undatus* and *Stapelia leendertziae*.

Rocky Payet
John Innes Centre
The researcher inquired on sourcing of *Crocus sativus* within the UK. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Julia Mackenzie
Anglia Ruskin University
This research focuses on urban birds, specifically the breeding behaviour of blue tits and great tits, and the impact of urban living on their breeding success. Data collection primarily involves monitoring approximately 40 nest boxes at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, as well as mist netting and colour ringing the adult birds. Behavioural studies are also conducted. The nest boxes have been monitored and the birds studied in the garden since 2003.

J.P.Bowdrey
British Plant Gall Society
This project investigates the colonisation of native and exotic *Quercus* spp. by gall wasps (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae). The researcher is continuing a survey started in April 2023 to survey *Quercus* spp. for cynipid galls, especially to monitor for the presence of several species new to Britain that have been recorded in the last two years. This research is in conjunction with publication of a proposed identification guide to cynipid galls of Britain and Ireland. CUBG provided permits for access during the research period.

Nathanael Walker-Hale
Durham University
This project concerns genome sequencing to characterize mutualism evolution in ant plants in Hydnophytinae, Rubiaceae, where multiple transitions between generalist, specialist, and loss of ant mutualisms occur. As part of this project the genome of *Psychotria ligustrifolia* will be sequenced to serve as an outgroup comparison. CUBG provided tissue samples of *Psychotria ligustrifolia*.

Thomas Pendlebury
The University of Edinburgh
This project is part of a proof-of-concept funded research project which looks at how the composition of plants (ash, lignin and cellulose) influences the final characteristics and ultimately carbon longevity of resulting biochar. CUBG provided cuttings of 10 taxa.

Jessica Smith
Anglia Ruskin University
This project is concerned with pollinator competition and how the traits of different flowers impact the activity of pollination by bees. CUBG provided permits for access to observe pollinator activity on the Bee Borders during the research period.

Stuart A'Hara
Forest Research, Forest Genetics Group, Roslin
This is a collaboration between the Welcome Trust/ Udine University and the UK black poplar group to use whole genome sequencing to explore the diversity in the extant UK population and compare it to that of European trees. The influence and introgression of the fastigiate black poplars such as the female 'Gigantea' clone will be studied. CUBG provided cuttings of *Populus nigra* 'Gigantea'.

Research Facilitated

Chris Tyler-Smith, Yali Xue
Unaffiliated (Independent Researchers)
This project investigates whether Wild Liquorice (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*) in the Botanic Garden hosts the pRDB3 moth *Grapholita pallifrontana*. By surveying seedpods for larvae in July or August, researchers will understand whether the moth has colonized the Botanic Garden from its closest known locations ~16 km away. This research is important for understanding its mobility and aiding its conservation by establishing new Wild Liquorice colonies at suitable locations. CUBG provided permits for access during the research period.

Richard Sewell
National Bat Monitoring Programme
The National Bat Monitoring Programme is an annual survey of bat populations in the UK. CUBG provided permits for access during the research period.

James Cockram
Niab, Cambridge
As part of the AEGIS project, the researcher sought to sample tissue from species which currently lack reference genome assemblies and provide to the Sanger Institute for sequencing and genome assembly. The resulting assemblies will be publicly released via 'Genome Notes' as soon as they are ready. CUBG provided plant tissue of *Mespilus germanica* and *Cydonia oblonga*.

Christina Hodson, Aleksandra Bliznina
Wellcome Sanger Institute, Hinxton
This project is concerned with generating and analysing genomic data in collaboration with the Darwin Tree of Life project using British arthropods collected from natural environments. These samples will contribute to the production of open access reference genomes generated by the Darwin Tree of Life project as well as sequence data for population analyses. CUBG provided permits for access during the research period.

Francis Wamonje
Pest & Pathology Ecology, West Mailing
This project monitors brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB, *Halyomorpha halys*) populations for changes over time based on CLIMAX model predictions. CUBG hosts a BMSB pheromone trap that is monitored bi-weekly. CUBG provided permits for access during the research period.

Ian Barton
Unaffiliated
This researcher was interested in information about corydalis (*Fumaria, Pseudofumaria*) in the garden and an aphid, *Longicaudinus corydalisicola*, which has only/mainly been recorded in the alate stage (winged) in Rothamstead suction traps sited in various parts of the UK. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Mary Butcher
Unaffiliated, CUBG Instructor
This project is a pine needle basket project using Californian Native American techniques which include pine needles as the essential material. CUBG provided fallen pine needles.

Robert Loveridge
University of Portsmouth
This exchange supported a tabletop interactive public display of fossil land plants. The display was situated in the Horticulture Village at the International Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Summer Show. The focus was to educate visitors on the long and diverse geological and palaeontological history of plants through 400+ million year evolution. CUBG provided cuttings of *Ephedra distachya*, *E. procera*, and *Psilotum nudum*.

External Researchers – International

10 Researchers supported internationally

Brendan Sayers
Belize Botanic Gardens
Schippia concolor and Reinhardtia simplex are native palms of Belize and Belize Botanic Gardens is carrying out an inventory of cultivated specimens of these rare species. The purpose of the inventory is to assist with conservation projects at Belize Botanic Gardens. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Sophia Rhizopoulou
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Biology Department, Greece
"Aspects of Cultural Botany on Cyclades' islands in Aegean". This project is concerned with a wild endemic plant, *Dianthus fruticosus* ssp. fruticosus,

which was growing on Serifos Island (Aegean archipelagos, Greece). Records indicate that this plant was collected by Stansfield Rawson (from Halifax, Yorkshire, UK), sometime between 1818 and 1820 and deposited at Cambridge University. CUBG provided information on the topic.

Shannon Reilly
Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University, USA
The Chicago Botanic Garden, in collaboration with the Morton Arboretum and with the support of the Walder Foundation, is conducting a conservation gap analysis for the genera *Artocarpus* and *Prainea* (Moraceae), exploring ex situ representation and in situ conservation coverage for each of their constituent taxa. CUBG provided information about *Artocarpus heterophyllus*.

Nora Gavin-Smyth
Chicago Botanic Garden, USA
A survey on ex situ collections of African *Impatiens*. The researcher sought accessions-level information, including provenance, for African *Impatiens* in living plant and seed collections in order to conduct a gap analysis. CUBG provided information about *Impatiens* spp. in the living collection.

Léa Revy
DNA Gensee, France
This research and development project requires genetic analyses to improve the quality and relevance of the genetic references present in databases, to help the scientific community. CUBG provided leaves of *Iris florentina*.

Silvia Vignolini
Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, Germany
This project aims to measure cellulose alignment in cactus spikes and evaluate the degree of alignment of cellulose fibers in the cell walls. CUBG provided spikes of *Echinopsis atacamensis* subsp. *pasacana*.

Dylan Mendenhall
Haven Ecology and Research LLC, USA
This project seeks to understand the climate tolerances of *Torreya californica*. The climates at botanical gardens that have this species in their collection will be compared with the climates of the original seed source / population of those trees. CUBG provided information about *Torreya californica*.

Cornelia Löhne
Bonn University Botanic Gardens, Germany
This project focusses on the evolution and species delimitations within the subfamily Scilloideae. CUBG provided leaves of 18 taxa.

Celine Vanhee
Sciensano, Belgium
This project is concerned with the development of different detection methodologies to screen for toxic plant species upon contamination of the food chain. CUBG provided leaves of eight taxa.

Božidar Proročić
Lovćen National Park, Montenegro
The project focuses on the conservation and reintroduction of native subalpine species in Lovćen National Park, Montenegro. The existing natural habitats of these species are threatened by the continued construction of a cable car to Cetinje, which poses a risk to the preservation of sensitive ecosystems and the floristic identity of the Lovćen region. CUBG provided *Pulsatilla vulgaris* seed.

Research Facilitated

Plant material supplied to other gardens

120 accessions of 117 taxa supplied to 12 other gardens.

Affiliation	Contact's Country
RHS Rosemoor	UK
Chatsworth House	UK
The Culture Trust, Luton	UK
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	UK
Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest	UK
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh	UK
University of Cambridge, University Libraries	UK
Newcastle University	UK
Old Durham Gardens	UK
Oxford Botanic Garden	UK
Lyme Gardens, National Trust	UK
Birmingham Botanic Garden	UK

Plant material supplied to other gardens via Index Seminum

Limited due to challenges of new DEFRA legislation.
Exchange 1440: Botanical Garden of the Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia
Cenchrus caudatus
Ferula ovina
Onopordum illyricum
Tetrataenium olgae

Total Exchanges
513 accessions supplied to 35 institutions (includes the amenity and *Index Seminum* exchanges).

Publications

TE Kongstead, F Romani, CA Airoldi, J Haseloff, BJ Glover 2025 Replicated repurposing of an ancestral transcriptional complex in land plants. *bioRxiv* 25.650595.

M Fernández-Mazuecos, BJ Glover 2025 Climatic and edaphic niche shifts during plant radiation in the Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot. *Annals of Botany* 135 (4), 717-734.

E Herrero, D Cano-Ramirez, BJ Glover, AAR Webb 2025 Arbor function of Transparent Testa Glabra 1 And Light Regulated WD scaffold proteins in the Arabidopsis circadian oscillators includes transcriptional repression through Pseudo Response Regulators. *bioRxiv* 04.636234.

FN Khojayori, U Ponraj, K Buch, Y Zhao, H Herrera-Ubaldo, BJ Glover 2024 Evolution and development of complex floral displays. *Development* 151 (21), dev203027.

R Fattorini, FN Khojayori, G Mellers, E Moyroud, E Herrero, RT Kellenberger, R Walker, Q Wang, L Hill, BJ Glover 2024 Complex petal spot formation in the Beetle Daisy (Gorteria diffusa) relies on spot-specific accumulation of malonylated anthocyanin regulated by paralogous GdMYBSG6 transcription factors. *New Phytologist* 243 (1), 240-257.

J Ferria, S Saladin, U Ponraj, R Wightman, C Giorio, CA Airoldi, BJ Glover 2024 HtDCR-like1 regulates the development of structurally coloured cuticle by modulating cuticle chemistry and mechanical properties in Hibiscus trionum. *bioRxiv 11.589056*.

CA Airoldi, C Chen, H Herrera-Ubaldo, H Fu, CA Lugo, AJ Crosby, BJ Glover 2024 Characterisation of cuticle mechanical properties: analysing stiffness in layered living systems to understand surface buckling patterns. *bioRxiv 27.587033*.

GV Davis, BJ Glover 2024 Characterisation of the R2R3 Myb subgroup 9 family of transcription factors in tomato. *PLOS ONE* 19 (3), e0295445.

HA Symington, BJ Glover 2025 Strawberry varieties differ in pollinator-relevant floral traits. *Ecology and Evolution* 15 (1), e10914.

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Á Cano , **J Powell** , AS Aiello, HL Andersen, T Arbour, A Balzer, DS Bauer,..., **SF Brockington** 2025 Insights from a century of data reveal global trends in ex situ living plant collections. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 9 (2), 214-224.

K Feng, JF Walker, HE Marx, Y Yang, SF Brockington , MJ Moore, RK Rabeler, SA Smith 2024 The link between ancient whole-genome duplications and cold adaptions in the Caryophyllaceae. *American journal of botany* 111 (8), e16350.

B Pucker, N Walker-Hale, J Dzurlic, WC Yim, JC Cushman, A Crum, Y Yang, SF Brockington 2024 Multiple mechanisms explain loss of anthocyanins from betalain-pigmented Caryophyllales, including repeated wholesale loss of a key anthocyanidin synthesis enzyme. *New Phytologist* 241 (1), 471-489.

SB Correa, KV Coronado-Franco, C Jézéquel, A Cantarute Rodrigues, ..., Á Cano and other authors 2025 Floodplain forests drive fruit-eating fish diversity at the Amazon Basin-scale. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 122 (3), e2414416122.

S Bellot, FL Condamine, KKS Matsunaga, RJ Morley, Á Cano , TLP Couvreur, R Cowan, WL Eiserhardt, BG Kuhnhäuser, O Maurin, M Siros, F Forest, IJ Leitch, WJ Baker 2024 Early Cretaceous origin and evolutionary history of palms (Arecaceae) inferred from 1,033 nuclear genes and a new synthesis of fossil evidence. *bioRxiv* 23.600266.

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DLM Cooper, KJ Feeley, SL Lewis, MJP Sullivan, PI Prado, H Ter Steege, ..., Á Cano and other authors 2024 Table 2 in Consistent patterns of common species across tropical tree communities. *Nature* 625 (7996), 728-734..

BG Luize, H Tuomisto, R Ekelschot, KG Dexter, IL Do Amaral, L de Souza Coelho, ..., Á Cano and other authors 2024 The biogeography of the Amazonian tree flora. *Communications biology* 7 (1), 1240.

BG Luize, D Bauman, H Ter Steege, C Palmea-Silva, IL Do Amaral, ..., Á Cano and other authors 2024 Geography and ecology shape the phylogenetic composition of Amazonian tree communities. *Journal of Biogeography* 51 (7), 1163-1184.

JE Householder, F Wittmann, J Schöngart, MTF Piedade, WJ Junk, ..., Á Cano and other authors 2024 One Sixth of Amazonian tree diversity is dependent on river floodplains. *Nature ecology & evolution* 8 (5),901-911.

Research Facilitated

Weather

Katie Sarll
Nursery & Experimental Horticulturalist

August 2024 – July 2025

Summary of the year

The winter was mild and wet with some cold temperatures towards the end. The spring was mild and dry, the summer had a combination of consistent high temperatures and long dry spells. At the end of July we had a total annual rainfall of 428.9mm, for the period of August 2024 to July 2025. Of this, only 182.4mm fell between January and July 2025. It has been the driest summer since 1976, with our hottest temperature being 33.6°C, recorded on the 11th August.

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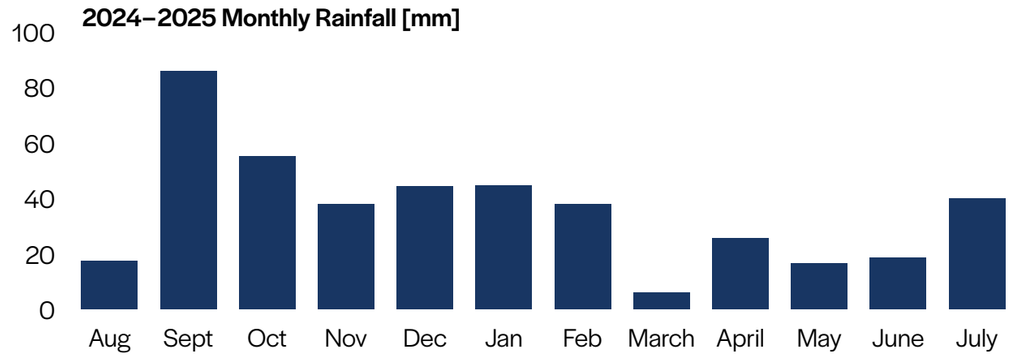
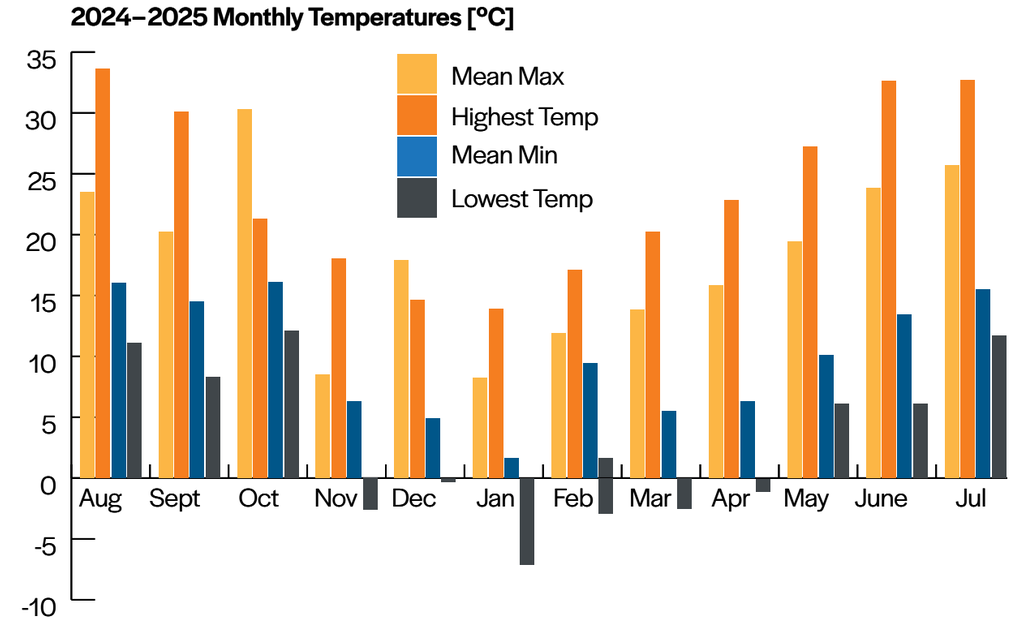
Month by month

- August was a consistently warm month with a maximum temperature of 33.6°C on the 11th. Most days were without rainfall although 7.5mm fell on the 24th.
- September was consistently warm throughout, with a maximum temperature of 30.1°C on the 1st and a minimum of 8.3°C on the 27th. This proved to be the third highest rainfall for the year at 85.6mm for the month and contributed to an above average total rainfall of 862.2mm for the calendar year of 2024.
- October was a mild month, with a maximum of 21.3°C on the 16th . There were small amounts of rainfall throughout with a maximum of 20.8mm on the 1st.
- November was especially cold and wet from the second half of the month, with 18°C on the 24th and – 2.6°C on the 20th. 16.4mm of rain fell on the 18th, after a period of little rain.
- In December the week of the 19th had strong wind and gales. It was a wet month with 10.6mm of rain on the 7th and a low of – 0.3°C on the 3rd.
- January was a cold month, wet throughout, with a total rainfall of 44.5mm and the lowest minimum temperature of – 6.3°C on the 11th.
- February was a cold month with a minimum temp of – 2.9°C on the 16th, with rain throughout, including 12.9mm on the 26th.
- March was another cold month with – 2.5°C on the 18th, however little rain fell for the month, the highest amount being 2mm on the 13th.
- April was a mild month with a maximum temperature of 22.8°C on the 28th, with no rainfall most days. The highest amount of rain fell on the 4th with 16mm.
- May was a warm month with a maximum temperature of 27.2°C on the 1st, again with no rainfall most days. T he highest amount of rainfall was 8.4mm on the 23rd.
- June was another warm month with a maximum temperature of 32.6°C on the 13th, again with no rainfall most days, the highest amount being 6.8mm on the 24th.
- July was a very hot month, with 32.7°C recorded on the 11th, Rain occurred mainly from the second part of the month, with 14.2mm on the 19th.

428.9mm Rainfall in 2024–5

33.6°C Year's warmest temperature





Funding

Rachel Agnew
Finance Manager

Over the past year we have seen income grow steadily, helping to support an increase in operating costs. We were delighted to welcome an encouraging number of visitors to the Garden, especially in March and April which were record breaking months. This led to rises in admission revenue and in Friends membership. Secondary revenue streams also saw gains, especially through Café sales and retail, and our second annual Cambridge Botanic Lights winter event series proved both popular and financially beneficial.

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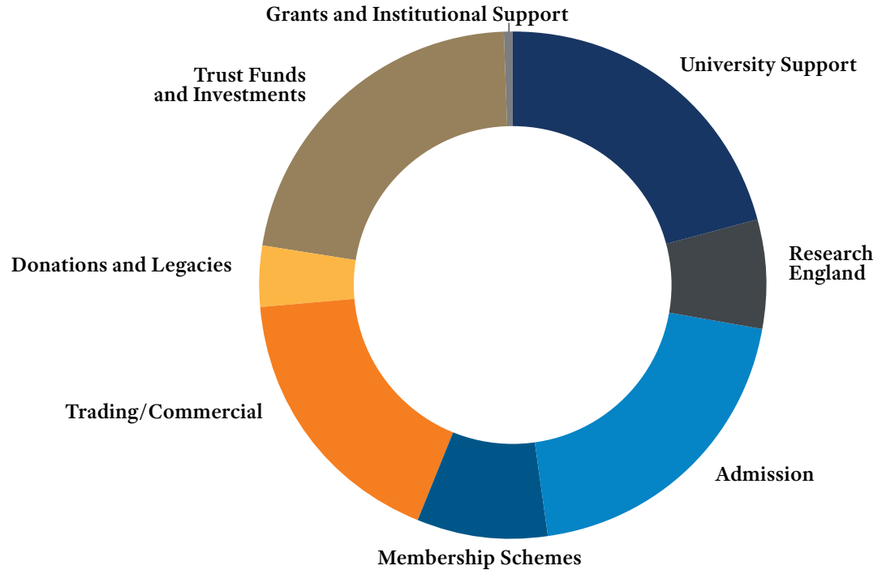
A renewed funding bid led to a substantial uplift in recurrent support from Research England, Higher Education Museums and Galleries (HEMG), strengthening our ability to deliver research, learning, and collaboration aligned with the Garden's goals. We are also grateful for the increase in donations supporting our Horticultural Trainee Scheme and for a range of specific projects across the Garden.

Looking ahead, there remains a backdrop of rising costs and uncertainty in the funding landscape. In this context, generating and diversifying income is more important than ever. These efforts are essential not just for sustaining current operations, but to build financial resilience, to develop our site, and to ensure we can deliver our core mission in education, science, and research in the years ahead.

'We were delighted to welcome an encouraging number of visitors to the Garden, especially in March and April which were record breaking months'

Financial Summary 2024-25 (£000's)

Income	**2024-25 £K**	**2023-24 £K**
University Support	1,035.7	972.8
Research England	346.5	164.0
Admission	978.3	942.6
Membership Schemes	415.0	397.1
Trading/Commercial	858.4	978.5
Donations and Legacies	197.0	314.6
Trust Funds and Investments	1,069.0	1,027.3
Grants and Institutional Support	27.0	31.2
Total Income	**4,926.8**	**4,828.2**



‘Looking ahead, there remains a backdrop of rising costs and uncertainty in the funding landscape. In this context, generating and diversifying income is more important than ever’

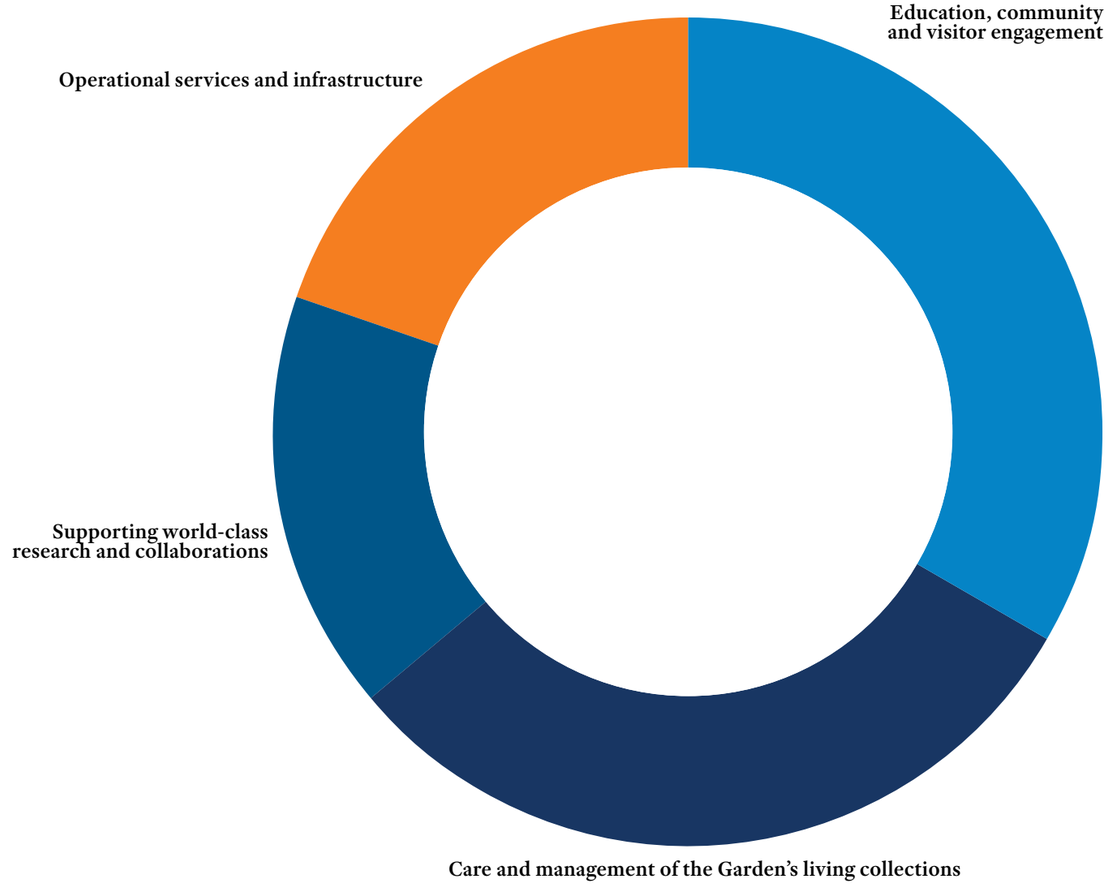
Expenditure	2024-25 £K	2023-24 £K
Education, community and visitor engagement	1,341.2	1,252.7
Care and management of the Garden’s living collections	1,225.3	1,172.4
Supporting world-class research and collaborations	654.8	673.0
Operational services and infrastructure	779.5	767.9
Total Expenditure Before Capital Investment	**4,000.8**	**3,866.1**
Total Income less Total Expenditure:	**926.0**	**962.1**
Capital Investment**	**-1,662.1**	**-54.7**
Net Surplus/Deficit After Capital Investment	**-736.1**	**907.3**
Plus: Adjustment for Strategic Research Initiative ‘Collections, Connections, Communities’**	**66.7**	**6.2**
Balance***	**-669.4**	**913.6**

Notes:

*Strategic research funding held for ‘Collections, Connections and Communities’ – Funding managed by CUBG on behalf of the Initiative. For more information visit *https://www.ccc.cam.ac.uk/*

**Capital investment includes costs associated with the Station Road Welcome Building, Irrigation and the Masterplan.

***All surplus balances are held for major planned capital investment. For more information visit *https://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/the-garden/development-of-the-garden/current-projects/*



‘Your support helps us to nurture the Garden’s stunning landscapes and share its beauty with the widest possible audience. Thank you’

The Garden continues to thrive thanks to the generosity of our supporters. This year, your gifts, donations and bequests have once again made a remarkable impact, helping us to care for our world-class plant collection, train the next generation of horticulturists, welcome more schoolchildren and community groups to explore the fascinating world of plants and host inspiring events for all. These are just a few of the many ways your support has made a difference.

We are especially grateful to those who honoured loved ones through our Sponsor a Tree scheme or left a gift in their will. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our loyal Friends who contribute through their membership and donations, and to our visitors who chose to Gift Aid their admissions and donations. Every contribution, whether made at our ticket offices, online, in donation boxes, or through time and energy as is the case with our incredible volunteers, is deeply appreciated.

Your support helps us to nurture the Garden’s stunning landscapes and share its beauty with the widest possible audience.

Trusts, Foundations and Institutional support

Research England – Higher Education Museums Galleries and Collections (HEMG)
The Gatsby Charitable Foundation, support towards the School Travel Bursary Scheme
University of Cambridge, Connections Collections Community project grant, support towards Community Participatory Research Project
BBSRC grant to support the ‘Secrets of a Daisy’ Model

Grants awarded in 24-25

Julia Rausing Trust, three-year grant to support a horticultural trainee
Batsford Foundation, support towards an MPhil in exploring tree response to climate change within a botanic garden context.
Thalia WB Community Fund, towards construction of new visitor facilities at the Station Road entrance, including toilets, signage, water and other visitor amenities.

Corporate and other support

Mills & Reeve LLP, sponsorship of Botanic Lights 2024
Birketts LLP, sponsorship of Sounds Green 2025

Donations from individuals

Susan Jane Shinman
D Abell
Neil Hamilton-Smith
Richard Price
And all those who have made smaller gifts or wish to remain anonymous.

Legacies and Bequests

The Estate of Markova Georgina June Noel
The Late Mrs Vida Docherty

Henslow Circle Patrons Group

Dame Fiona Reynolds
Tony Barnard
Tim and Jax Parsonson
Meredith and Caroline Lloyd-Evans
Sara Oldfield
Miss Judith Portrait OBE
Michael and Christine Halstead
And those who wish to remain anonymous.
If you would like to find out more about how you can support the work of the Garden, please visit *Make a Donation* on the Garden’s website, *www.botanic.cam.ac.uk*

Syndicate & Cory Managers

Four meetings of the Botanic Garden Syndicate were held during the year under the Chairmanship of Dame Fiona Reynolds.

Syndicate members were:
Professor David Coomes, Professor Jon Drori (external), Dr Laurie Friday, Dr Ian Furner, Ms Amy Goymour, Mr Donald Hearn, Professor Christopher Howe, Professor Henrik Jönsson, Professor Rebecca Kilner, Professor Kamal Munir, Ms Freya Watts (student member to July 2025) and Professor Julian Hibberd. The Secretary was the Garden’s Director, Professor Beverley Glover.
The Cory Managers met four times during the year under the Chairmanship of Professor Julian Hibberd (Head of the Department of Plant Sciences).
Managers for the year were:
Dr Richard Anthony (from March 2025), Professor David Cebon, Professor Howard Griffiths, Dr Kate Maxwell, with Mr David Sizer as the representative of the Director of Finance.

‘Thank you to everyone who has supported the Garden this year – with an admission ticket, Friends membership, donation, gifts in wills, corporate sponsorship and more. It all makes a difference and is hugely appreciated’

Corporate Friends

Redwood Friends

AstraZeneca Babraham Institute Cambridge Design Partnership Cambridge University Press & Assessment Cantab Asset Management Costello Medical Domino UK Limited GMSL Microsoft Nu Quantum Ltd Secondmind AI Ltd Studio 24 Ltd The Cambridge Building Society

Oak Friends

Abcam Limited Amazon (EVI Technologies) Ansys UK Ltd Apple Arcus Foundation ARM Ltd AstraZeneca Birketts LLP Brookgate Development Management Ltd Cam Medical Primary Care Network Cambridge Bid Ltd Cambridge City 4 PCN Ltd Cambridge Commonwealth, European & International Trust Cambridge Econometrics Cambridge Education Group Cambridge Enterprise Cambridge Flow Solutions Ltd Cambridge Innovation Capital Ltd Cambridge Intelligence Ltd Cambridge Investment Management Ltd Cambridge Mechatronics Ltd Cambridge Nutraceuticals Cambridge University Libraries Cambridge Water (South Staffs Water) Cambustion Limited Cantab Medical Practices PCN Carter Jonas CCDC Churchill College Clare Hall Cogentia Healthcare Consulting Ltd Corpus Christi College Deloitte LLP Department of Archaeology Department of Architecture Department of Biochemistry Department of Earth Sciences Department of Engineering Department of Genetics Department of Geography Department of History & Philosophy of Science Department of Material Science and Metallurgy Dept of Pathology Department of Pharmacology Department of Physiology, Development & Neuroscience Department of Psychology Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics Department of Veterinary Medicine Department of Zoology Development & Alumni Relations Downing College EMBL-EBI Staff Association Eversheds Sutherland LLP Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Faculty of Education Faculty of Law Fauna & Flora Fitzwilliam Museum Five AI FOR A Geant Association Genomics plc GetBusy Gilead Sciences Gillvray Health Ltd Gonville & Caius College Graphcore Ltd Gurdon Institute Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ltd Healx Ltd Hills Road Sixth Form College Hoare Lea Howard Ventures Ltd Howes Percival LLP HP UK Development Ltd HR Division (University of Cambridge) Hughes Hall Information Services, University of Cambridge Innovate Cambridge Institute for Technology and Humanity Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge Institute of Criminology Intrasonics Ltd Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences John Lewis Cambridge Judge Business School K J Tait lowRisc CIC Lucy Cavendish College Lynfield Management Maison Clement Bakery & Patisserie Ltd Mantle Space Marks & Clerk LLP Marshall Sports and Social Club Mishcon de Reya LLP Mott MacDonald Ltd MTK Wireless Nash Matthews LLP Natural England nCipher Security LTD (Entrust) Newnham College Niab Office of External Affairs and Communications Office of Intercollegiate Services Ltd PEM Accountants Pembroke College Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP Pitpatpet Ltd Qualcomm Sports & Social Club Quantinuum Ltd RAND Europe Community Interest Company Raspberry Pi Foundation Research Office (Uni of Cam) Samsung AI Center Samsung Cambridge Solution Centre Social Club Sancton Wood School Savills (UK) Ltd School of Clinical Medicine School of Technology School of the Humanities & Social Sciences Select English Siemens Industry Software Ltd SLB Cambridge Research Softwire St Edmund's College St Faith's School St Mary's School Cambridge Staff Counselling Centre Stantec UK Ltd Stephen Perse Foundation Stone King LLP Strategic Partnership Office Student Services Centre Sweco UK Ltd Taylor Wessing The Biodiversity Consultancy Ltd The Leys School The Tuesday Project Ltd Thomson Webb & Corfield LLP Trinity College Trinity Hall Vine FX Ltd WCMC WeWork WSP Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry Scott Polar Research Institute

162 Total Corporate Memberships
149 Oak Friends (92%)
13 Redwood Friends (8%)
New members: 30 (18.5%)
Renewals: 132 (81.5%)

Botanic Garden Staff

Director
- Professor Beverley Glover
- EA to Director: Jane Adams
- PA to Senior Leadership Team: Coleen Keohane (from February)

Assistant Director (Development & Enterprise)
Kathryn Westmore (from November)

Administration
- Departmental Administrator: Wendy Godfrey
- Assistant Administrators: Richenda Whitehead and Caty Cooke
- Learning Administrator: Lucy Watts

Curation
- Curator and Deputy Director: Professor Sam Brockington
- Deputy Curator: Ángela Cano
- Plant Records Officer: Pete Atkinson
- Assistant Curator: Margeaux Apple
- Expedition Botanist: Matthew Jeffery (from March)
- Curation Assistants: Mar Millan and Nadiia Rositska

Development and Communications
- Head of Development and Communications: Anna Patterson Lee
- Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator: Helen Needham
- Communications Assistant: Katy Lawrence
- Friends Administrator: Helen Llewelyn

Estates
- Head of Estates and Operations Manager: Carl Tatterton
- Estates Manager: Phil Starling

Finance
- Finance Manager: Rachel Agnew
- Finance Coordinator: Rebecca Chapman (from April)
- Finance Administrators: Elaine Dalton (to April) and Mark Devlin

Horticulture
- Head of Horticulture: Sally Petitt
- Horticultural Displays: Team Leader – Paul Aston; Senior Horticulturist Western Display – Jonathan Strauss; Assistants – Pete Wrapson, Alice Riches, Senia Gumeniuk (from November); Senior Horticulturist Eastern Display – Andrea Topalovic Arthan, Assistant – John Kapor (to May), Thomas Lovell (from June)
- Garden Landscapes: Team Leader – Tom Wheatcroft; Senior Horticulturist Landscape and Machinery – Adrian Holmes, Assistant – Ross Gildea; Senior Arborist – Lewis Dearn; Senior Horticulturist Trees and Shrubs – Richard Denham
- Glasshouses: Team Leader Glasshouses and Nursery – Luigi Leoni; Senior Horticulturist Nursery & Experimental – Simon Wallis, Assistant – Katie Sarll, Ursula Schell (from October); Glasshouses Senior Horticulturist – Kathryn Bray, Assistant – Barbara Griffith
- Weekend Horticultural Assistant: Stefania Martinico

Trainee Horticultural Technicians September 2024 – September 2025
- Siah Meadows, Imogen Moore, Helen Piper, Samara Salix, Alet Scholtz, Thomas Silverman, Jessica Welsh (to March), Charles Thomas (to March)

Learning
- Head of Learning: Holly Clothier
- Learning Officer: Sally Lee (to April)
- Raphaella Hull: Higher Education and Interpretation Coordinator
- Schools Learning Officer: Bronwen Richards, Hannah Elkington
- Community Learning Co-ordinator: Louise Campbell

Visitor Services
- Head of Visitor Services: Nicci Steele-Williams
- Deputy Head of Visitor Services & Team Leader: Laura Welford
- Team Leaders: David Evans and David Radley
- Visitor Services Assistants: Amanda Wilkins, Lucinda Fudge, Sue Baker, Alicia Lloyd, Saphia Kaikati, Tom Austin, Martha Gough (to April), Kirsty Mather, Hannah Sell, Jess Wilson, Lynn Outlaw (from (April)
- Visitor Services Receptionist: Heloise Toop, Bryony Toop

Botanic Garden Staff Activities

The following members of staff have contributed to external organisations and groups in connection with their posts:

Professor Beverley Glover: fellow of Queens' College; member of the Science Advisory Committee of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research; member of the Council of the European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology; member of the Botanical Society of America; member of the British Society for Developmental Biology; Fellow of the Linnean Society; patron of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust; vice president of the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association; member of the Advisory Board of New Phytologist; member of the Advisory Board of Current Biology; Strategic Advisor to 'Plants, People, Planet'; member of the Editorial Board of Current Opinion in Plant Biology; member of the Natural Environment Research Council's Peer Review College; gave talks for the charity Headway at the Friends Meeting House in Saffron Walden, at the University of Zurich, at the Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge University, for the Stokes Society at Pembroke College, for the Friends of Barrington Church, for the Gatsby Plant Science Education programme.

Botanic Garden Staff

Professor Samuel Brockington: Academic Lead for the Cambridge University Herbarium; co-Chair of the Collections-Connections-Communities Strategic Research Initiative; selection board of the CC-EE DTP programme; Trustee and council member for the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust (BCN-WT); Chair of BCN-WT Conservation, Education and Communities Committee; member of the Great Fen Steering Group; Trustee for Thrive (Social and Therapeutic Horticulture); member of BGCI's conservation advisory committee; member of Stellenbosch University Botanic Garden's Technical Advisory Board; Fellow of the Linnean Society; member of the Botanical Society of America; member of the Darwin Tree of Life Plant Steering Group; gave talks for BGCI's International Advisory Council in Oman and to Kew's Mutual Appreciation Society.

Carl Tatterton continued as a trustee of the Hobson's Conduit Trust.

Helen Needham continued as a member of the Great Days Out In & Around Cambridge committee.

Sally Petitt continued as chair of the Merlin Trust (which provides travel awards to young horticulturalists) and as a member of the Borde Hill Garden Council. She continues to serve on the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Learning & Public Engagement Expert Group and the RHS Alpine & Rock Garden Expert Group. She joined the Trustees of the Alpine Garden Society.

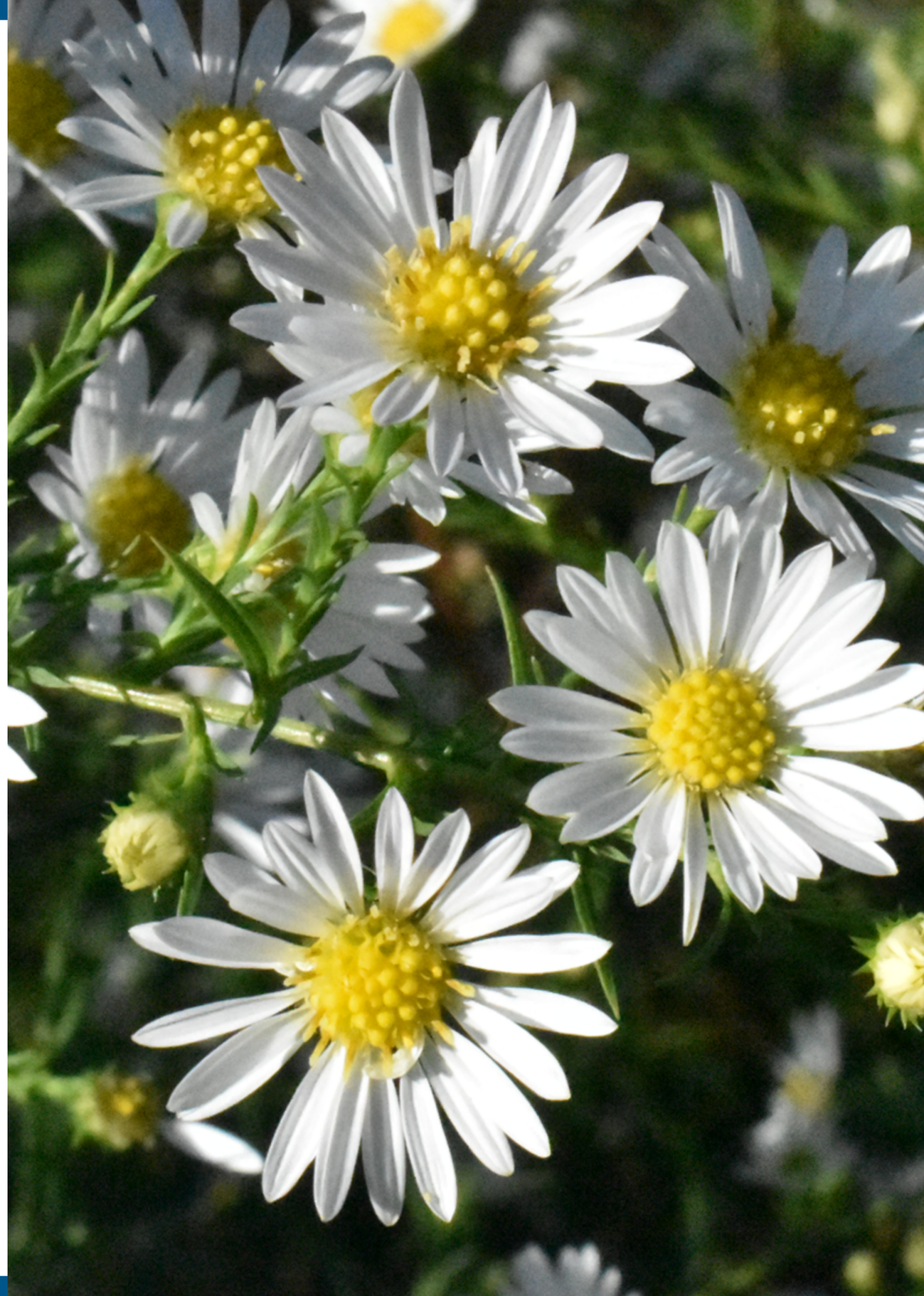
Luigi Leoni is a member of the RHS Orchid Expert Group and gave a talk at the RHS Orchid Show at RHS, Wisley.

Dan Jenkins is a fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, continued as a member of the Curriculum Committee, Plant Science Group, Biology Education Research Group and the Education Policy Advisory Group at the Royal Society of Biology. He continued as a member of the Policy Group at the Association for Science Education. He gave a talk at Plant Biology Education: Creating a Vision for the Future conference in Lancaster.

Claire Pennycuick continued as a member of the Careers Committee of the Royal Society of Biology.

Alex Jenkin continued as a member of the Biology Education Research Group and Outreach and Engagement Working Group of the Royal Society of Biology.

Dr Chris Graham continued on the Education Science and Policy committee of the Royal Society of Biology.



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